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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

WORLD

Archaeologists find an "extraordinary" Mayan frieze in Guatemala.

➤ PAGE 25

OFFBEAT

A man who caught a fish known as "Frankenfish" has set a record.

➤ PAGE 26

LIFE & STYLE

Work on a new railway line digs up bits and pieces of London history.

➤ PAGE 28

FOR CHINESE, RUSSIAN TOURISTS

'Birth tourism' risks visa waiver

» Kilili says immigration reform bill excludes birth tourism families

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sablan

With Saipan becoming a destination of choice for pregnant foreign nationals who want to give birth to automatic U.S. citizen children, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday this so-called "birth tourism" needs to be discouraged to avoid risking the CNMI's chance of getting a permanent U.S. visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists.

See BIRTH on Page 4

DECISION NOW OFFICIAL:

No GTC-Tanapag merger this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

It's official: The planned merger of the Gregorio T. Camacho and Tanapag elementary schools will not happen this new school year. The Board of Education voted yesterday to postpone the merger to next school year.

The reconfiguration of Kagman Elementary and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School next month will, however, push through.

The revised merger plan removes the GTC-Tanapag merger from the project's Phase 1 and includes it as a component of Phase 2, which will be implemented next school year. What's left in Phase 1 is the reconfiguration of KagES and Chacha schools, effective school year 2013-2014.

This revised plan was adopted by a 3-2 vote, with board chair Herman T. Guerrero, Lucy Blanco-Maratita, and Janice Tenorio supporting it and Marylou Ada and Tanya King opposing it.

Prior to voting on the new plan,

See MERGER on Page 4

Hospital's lab director resigns, claims nonpayment of services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The island's lone public hospital has lost its laboratory director, who claims that she has not been fully paid for her services at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Dr. Caroline Yap, a pathologist and lab director for CHC, confirmed her resignation with *Saipan Tribune*. She disclosed that her decision to quit was the result of her disappointing situation, with the hospital refusing to pay her salary for 14 days.

Interim corporation CEO Esther Muña confirmed the lab director's resignation, saying that Yap resigned without proper notice.

"We are grateful for Dr. Yap for being our laboratory director. Like all contracts we have, we expect to

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tourists navigate their way through rocks and grass yesterday at the summit of Mount Tapochao, which, at 1,554 feet above sea level, is the highest point on Saipan and is one of the most visited tourist spots in the CNMI. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) says the so-called birth tourism, if not properly addressed, could put the U.S. visa waiver program for CNMI-bound Chinese and Russian tourists in jeopardy.

'Lawmakers can help retirees with lowest benefits' PAGE 2
NMC receives clean audit report for 6th year. PAGE 7

Local

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'Lawmakers can assist retirees who are getting lowest benefits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action, the Legislature can actually give retirees more money, according to Johnson's counsel, Margery Bronster.

In an interview, Bronster said some legislators say that they'd like to give retirees more in retirement benefits.

"There is absolutely nothing that prevents the Legislature from appropriating more money that will then be distributed to the retirees," Bronster said.

Responding to questions about class members who get the lowest amount in retirement benefits, attorney Robert M. Hatch, another counsel for Johnson, said it is legally impermissible for them as class counsel to favor the members of the class one over the other.

"We're constrained by legal limits in negotiating a deal that apply the same percentage across the entire fund," he said.

However, Hatch said, the settlement agreement specifically allows the Legislature to cut checks from a different source in order to make up some of the cuts for the people at the lowest end.

Given the amounts that were presented by the NMI Retirement Fund in court on Tuesday about the distribution of retirement benefits to members, Hatch said the amounts of money that will be required to give a little boost the people at the lowest end would not be really high.

"We're extremely hopeful that, for people whose benefits are at the lowest, the Legislature might be able to find a little bit of money to make the burden of this settlement a little bit less on them," the lawyer said.

On the issue of who will be named trustee of the settlement fund, Bronster said one of the things that they want to make sure is that this settlement agreement "is going to be seamless."

Bronster said they don't want the retirees to be concerned that come October 2013, they won't get their checks or they won't know who to talk to.

"We want to make sure that we get someone who understands the responsibilities to the members and is ready to hit the ground running," she said.

Bronster said they will be submitting names for the trustee's position on Sept. 10, 2013.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood tentatively approved the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the Fund and the CNMI government.

Under the deal, the Fund will pay out $52 million in two stages: $10 million in the first stage after entry of preliminary approval, and the remaining balance after final approval.

The hearing on the final approval will be on Sept. 30, 2013.

The $52 million will be used to pay refunds of contributions to current government employees who have asked to leave the Fund.

The settlement agreement's one main goal is to ensure that retirees who are in the class will receive at least 75 percent of their benefits in the future.

Settlement class refers all persons who on Aug. 6, 2013, are members of the Fund's defined benefit plan or persons who are entitled to survivor's benefits of such members, provided the person did not execute and deliver to the Fund a request to terminate membership.

PIDC request to stop COP land contract lease denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo denied yesterday a request by Pacific Investment Development and Vicente O. Litulumar to issue a preliminary injunction to stop the departments of Public Lands and Finance from pursuing a contract to lease the public land where Coral Ocean Point sits.

Govendo said that PIDC and Litulumar have not demonstrated that they will be irreparably harmed if the preliminary injunction is not issued.

Govendo then terminated the temporary restraining order against DPL and Finance issued by Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja on July 17, 2013.

PIDC and Litulumar, through counsel Robert Myers Jr., sought a TRO and an injunction against DPL and Finance, asserting they will be irreparably harmed by the agencies' alleged pursuit of a sole-source lease with Suwaso Corp., Micronesia Resorts Inc., and E-Land Park Limited.

DPL and Finance, through assistant attorney general Peter Prestley, argued that the plaintiffs will not be harmed because even if PIDC and Litulumar succeeds in this case, they only have a speculative chance of leasing the property.

Prestley said any future lessee will receive an improved property and that any potential claim the plaintiffs assert for lost profits can be remedied by an award of damages.

Govendo held a hearing on PIDC and Litulumar's petition last week.

In his order yesterday, Govendo said PIDC and Litulumar assume that without court intervention Suwaso Corp., one of the owners of COP, will receive illegal contracts with the government in the future.

"[PIDC and Litulumar] do not explain why Suwaso would be guaranteed to receive future contracts, why the future contracts would be illegal, or how these hypothetical contracts would harm the plaintiffs," he said.

Govendo said the plaintiffs also fail to explain how they will be harmed if COP is renovated.

Govendo said if PIDC and Litulumar eventually secure a lease to COP, then they will be administering an improved property.

"Improving Coral Ocean Point is in the best interests of the Commonwealth, the defendants, and the plaintiffs," the judge said.

'Man who sued for cop brutality may have suffered brain injury'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Jin Dong Wang, a man who is suing for police brutality after a police officer allegedly beat him up and hit his head with a gun's butt during a mistaken arrest, may have suffered brain injury, according to a doctor.

Wang is currently in China, and is experiencing difficulty obtaining a return flight to Saipan, according to court documents filed in U. S. District Court for the NMI yesterday.

According to a stipulation signed by Wang's counsel, David Banes, and police officer Jesse Dubrall's counsel, assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington, Wang's treating physician, Dr. Jeremy Richards, had examined the plaintiff and determined that he may have suffered brain injury.

Dubrall was unable to secure an on-island expert to examine Wang's alleged brain injury. The officer's expert, Dr. Michael Kim, is unable to travel to the Commonwealth until after Aug. 16, 2013.

Banes and Brasington said that Kim is tentatively scheduled to examine Wang on Aug. 31, 2013, and will require time to complete his written report.

Brasington will then promptly furnish a written report to Banes.

Wang alleged that Dubrall hit him with the butt of a gun and punched and kicked him. He sustained a large cut in the head.

Wang filed the police brutality lawsuit in federal court against Dubrall, the CNMI government, Department of Public Safety, a former DPS commissioner, and other unnamed co-defendants. Dubrall allegedly used excessive force during his mistaken arrest in the evening of Oct. 18, 2010.

In May 2012, the federal court dismissed Wang's claims but allowed him to amend some of the claims.

Vicente B. Babauta, a former police officer and now an investigator at the Office of the Attorney General, concluded in his investigation that Dubrall acted appropriately during that operation and determined that Wang's allegation of brutality was unsubstantiated.

NAVFAC Marianas hosts change of command

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas will host a change of command ceremony on Aug. 14 at 10am at Bldg. 4177 (former William C. McCool Elementary and Middle School).

During this time-honored Navy tradition, NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. John V. Heckmann Jr will render command to Capt. Glenn A. Shephard.

Shephard arrives from Washington State where he served as executive officer for NAVFAC Northwest. Heckmann will assume his new duties as NAVFAC Headquarters Operations Officer in Washington D.C. ***(PR)***

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Inos poised to lift CHC emergency in early FY 2014

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is poised to lift the state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in early fiscal year 2014, citing improvements in its revenue collection and strides in taking care of immediate needs such as in the area of pharmaceuticals and professional service needs.

The governor said he is also waiting for the result of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' resurvey visit in October which he said is "very critical."

"CHC has made a lot of improvements especially in the area of revenue collection and generation," he said, adding that while the corporation still owes a significant amount in the area of utilities and other challenges, it has not been in the same situation as last year's "because they're taking care of immediate needs like pharmaceuticals, professional services, and so forth."

"They're making a lot of progress," the governor added.

CHC, however, needs to institutionalize all the improvements they have made.

"Hire people and have some real stability. They've been doing a lot of filling the voids and crisis management if you will but that's got to the point where things are getting stable," he said.

Besides lauding the men and women at CHC, the governor also thanked the U.S. Public Health Service and the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for its technical assistance grant and capital improvement project funds to assist CHC.

The governor has been extending the monthly state of emergency declaration for CHC as the corporation struggles to stay open but CHC could be out of that status before the end of the year.

The executive order on CHC state of emergency suspends applicable procurement regulations and allow for reprogramming of funds to meet CHC needs. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

2 new laws expand list of 'law enforcers'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday two separate but related laws that expand the list of those considered law enforcement officers in the CNMI, including fire service officers at the Department of Public Safety and chief investigators and investigators both at the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor.

By designating them as law enforcers, they would be empowered against those who may resist their authority and they would also be afforded death benefits provided to other law enforcers.

Senate Bill 18-21, House Draft 1 is now Public Law 18-13.

It adds the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives and the Senate to the list of those considered law enforcers in the CNMI. They would also be eligible to receive death benefits provided to other law enforcement personnel such as police officers and investigators.

The governor also signed Senate Bill 18-22, House Draft 1 into Public Law 18-14.

It includes DPS fire service officers, OAG chief investigator and investigators as well as OPA investigator and chief investigators to the list of those considered law enforcers.

Current law creates an offense for resisting arrest and applies to law enforcement officers. It does not, however, specifically refer to officers within certain agencies such as the OAG and OPA. The new law thus empowers these newly designated law enforcement officers against those who may resist their authority.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), a former police officer, authored these bills. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

honor each of them. Dr. Yap has billed us for our services and she will be paid. Terms of payment for her services are similar to all other contracts," Muña told *Saipan Tribune*.

Muña said that Yap's payment for her services is not due yet. She declined to comment when asked when this payment is due. "I have no further comment," she said.

Muña denied allegations that the corporation has not been paying or was intentionally delaying Yap's salary.

"We did nothing wrong and it's unfortunate that Dr. Yap resigned without proper notice," added Muña.

Saipan Tribune learned that Yap sent an email to Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Aug. 4 to seek aid for her unpaid compensation, but she has yet to get a response to date.

In her letter to Inos, Yap said she worked at the hospital from May 15 to Aug. 2, 2013. She said she was only remunerated for two weeks covering July 1 to 15.

"I am currently in a difficult financial situation. My expenses have exceeded my compensation since arriving on Saipan," Yap said, adding that requests for payment have been ignored.

The delay, she said, is being blamed on CHC's ongoing review of contracts and payment of vendors and other service providers.

"I regretfully could no longer continue providing services without compensation. I understand this is a glitch to CHC's quest and continued progress toward CLIA licensing. I am requesting for your help in expediting payment of my last invoice for a total of 14 days, in order for me to take care of financial obligations in Saipan, Guam and California and leave for California," stated Yap in her email to the governor.

Saipan Tribune learned that Yap is seeking payment for 14 days, totaling some $14,000.

The hospital is still in the process of addressing deficiencies cited by U.S. Medicare and Medicaid Services. A team from the federal agency is scheduled to resurvey the hospital in October this year. After this visit, the CMS will decide on the hospital's certification with Medicare.

Among the deficiencies identified at the public hospital is the facility's lack of a lab manager and lab director. For the lab manager position, the U.S. Commissioned Corp is providing continued assistance by assigning its own personnel.

For the lab director post, Yap was hired through a locum agreement.

Muña assured that the position will be filled soon. "The CHCC governing body has another laboratory director prospect," she said.

BIRTH

From Page 1

Sablan said that federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security have also been concerned about birth tourism in the CNMI.

Under the visa waiver program, Chinese and Russian tourists can enter and stay in the CNMI for up to 45 days without a U.S. visa.

However, while the visa waiver program has tremendously helped the CNMI tourism industry prosper, it has also given some tourists, mostly Chinese, a way to give birth to automatic U.S. citizen children, as promoted by businesses based in China and the CNMI.

The United States is one of a few countries that observe *jus soli*, which grants automatic citizenship to children born within its territory, regardless of the parents' nationality or citizenship.

In a news briefing in Susupe yesterday, Sablan said it is not easy to stop this so-called birth tourism.

Birth tourism is believed to have increased with the approval of a visa waiver program since 2009. However, there is no telling whether this visa waiver will become part of a final immigration rule.

Sablan said that U.S. Customs and Border Protection could not deny entry to Chinese women simply because they are suspected to be pregnant. That is gender discrimination, he said.

The birth tourism issue came up when Sablan was asked whether a change in DHS leadership, when Secretary Janet Napolitano steps down, could affect the visa waiver program for Chinese and Russian tourists bound for the CNMI.

"What concerns me more is the birth tourism business here… That kind of activity concerns me enough that it's really like putting a gun in our mouth and pulling the trigger. We need to discourage that because that's something that has federal agencies concerned," Sablan said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has also raised concern about the impact of birth tourism on the CNMI's chances of securing a permanent visa waiver for its lucrative Chinese and Russian tourists.

Sablan and Inos earlier wrote a joint letter to DHS, calling for tighter border watch.

Businesses that cater to birth tourism have seen a boom—from health clinics to hotels, apartments, car rentals, translators, retail stores, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The delegate said the attempted entry of Chinese tourists or workers in the CNMI into Guam are also another concern.

Sablan said the CNMI would not want to give DHS a reason to stop the visa waiver program.

"I am very happy that Mr. Alejandro Mayorkas has been nominated to be deputy secretary. He understands our issues very well, more than many people think," the delegate added.

When asked whether he's also concerned that the visa waiver program has also helped facilitate drug trafficking, Sablan said he has faith in the CNMI Customs Services Division under Director Joe Mafnas' leadership.

As to other national security issues, Sablan said he cannot share information given to him in classified meetings.

"We'd like to see a final rule in the next several years that includes China and Russia," he added.

Immigration bill

Sablan, at the same time, said the national immigration reform bill with a CNMI-specific provision that the U.S. Senate passed does not cover the alien parents or families of so-called birth tourism children.

"If you look at the immigration language that we have proposed all along, there really is a reason as to the several timelines required and that is to not include families of birth tourism because that would never pass and it will hurt us more than it will help us," Sablan said.

Covered in the CNMI-specific provision of that U.S. Senate immigration bill are U.S. citizen children's parents who have been in the CNMI legally since at least 2003.

"In the immigration legislation for the Northern Marianas, we went through extra pain to language that carefully so that a child born here, say five years ago, whose parents just came in, had a baby and left—the child is a U.S. citizen… and we have a process wherein he can petition his or her family but they're not going to get that opportunity from the Northern Marianas legislation because they're not the people we're trying to help," the delegate added.

The U.S. House of Representatives is also considering its own national immigration reform bill and Sablan is confident that if it is a Gang of Seven-crafted bill, then it would also have the same CNMI-specific language that the U.S. Senate's Gang of Eight included in S. 744.

MERGER

From Page 1

Ada said she wants separate discussions on the GTC-Tanapag merger and the consolidation of KagES and Chacha but this was thumbed down by her colleagues.

When asked later why she voted against the proposal, Ada said: "I voted no because I believe we need more planning. All along we've been discussing GTC-Tanapag merger and we never discussed about the KagEs and Chacha consolidation. I believe we should go out and have the general public know about our consolidation and merger plans."

Under the revised plan, Chacha Oceanview Junior High will become a middle school and renamed Chacha Oceanview Middle School starting this school year. It will also accommodate sixth graders who will be moved out from KagES to make the middle school the home of sixth to eighth graders. KagES, meantime, will become home of kindergartners to fifth graders beginning Sept. 3.

"I don't know if everybody is prepared to begin this merger in couple of weeks. I wonder if Chacha and KagES are ready. Are teachers, students, and parents all ready for this?" asked Ada, adding that the key issue is proper planning.

The BOE recently met with GTC and Tanapag stakeholders, during which various concerns were raised. That meeting resulted in postponing the merger of the two schools to next school year.

"We need to really know the stakeholders' concerns and what they're thinking about it. Thank God we had this public hearing [with GTC-Tanapag parents] because we were made aware of security issues like fencing, traffic, and having a Head Start center inside the middle school campus. That made a lot of sense. We listened to them and we had good results," added Ada.

King, who also opposed the consolidation of KagES and Chacha this year, is worried about the possible inadequate preparation of teachers of both schools.

King said the proposal requires extensive and systematic planning—usually one to three years—to ensure that everyone is prepared and that stakeholders—parents, students, teachers, and community—are consulted.

"I feel that it did not happen. We need adequate time to prepare and...time is absolutely critical," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

If the main objective of the merger is to reduce Hopwood Junior High School's perennial overcrowding, King said the merger should happen in the southern part of the island where Hopwood is located, not in the northern part.

Both King and Ada pointed out that their main concern is the lack of preparation for teachers, parents, and students.

"Teachers are off-island. Did we seek input regarding this change? I don't think we did! I just want what's best for our children. What is going to happen [that] teachers will have self-contained classrooms—meaning teachers will teach not only one content area but four content areas. Are they qualified to do that now? Do they have enough time to prepare? If teachers are not adequately prepared, the impact is on our students," added King.

'It was done before'

When asked for comments about the two board members' opposition to her plan, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., replied: "I want to look beyond that. I want to look beyond the horizon in which we are proposing a middle school plan that really benefits our children."

Sablan said that when PSS proposed the plan, it made sure that the benefit to schoolchildren is three- to fourfold.

By removing sixth graders from KagES and transferring them to Chacha Middle School, this will give way to the implementation of a full-day kindergarten program at KagES. This usually has only 30 students each year, taking half-day sessions. She said over 100 sixth graders will now be joining Chacha next month.

Sablan said the reconfiguration will not cost much as no additional teachers will be needed at Chacha. She said the transferred sixth graders will be moving with their classroom teachers.

Chacha Middle School is expected to have 338 students from 6th to 8th grades this school year.

If there's one thing that PSS will need, it is two kindergarten teachers for KagES, Sablan said. From only 30 kindergartners, the school may eventually house up to 120.

The reconfiguration, she added, was also relayed to PSS' accrediting commission, which welcomed the idea after determining that the plan will not bring "substantive change" that will impact its accreditation.

Board chair Guerrero also came to the defense of the reconfiguration plan, saying the concept is not new and was enforced before in KagES and Chacha.

Member Lucy Blanco-Maratita said that unlike the merger of GTC and Tanapag, the reconfiguration of the two Kagman schools is "somewhat not difficult" due to the proximity of the two campuses.

Judge Manglona finds disbarment order vs Woodruff not final

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona put on hold yesterday federal court proceedings on whether or not to impose a Superior Court order that disbars attorney Stephen C. Woodruff from the CNMI Bar.

Manglona said the procedure for imposing reciprocal discipline in a federal court requires a final state disciplinary adjudication—"the action of the state court of last resort."

Manglona said the Superior Court's disbarment order is not a final adjudication, given Commonwealth rules that give Woodruff the right to review the disciplinary action and Woodruff's notice of intent to exercise those rights.

The judge ruled that until Woodruff has received all the process he is due in Commonwealth courts, the district court cannot conduct its own independent review of that process.

"Therefore, the court will stay the reciprocal-discipline process until final adjudication in the Commonwealth courts," she said.

Although a show-cause hearing is not warranted on the basis of the Superior Court's disbarment order, Manglona said the matter has come to her attention at this stage.

Manglona said a member of this district's bar has a duty to notify the court of "contemplated or pending professional disciplinary action in another jurisdiction" and to provide the chief judge with "a true copy of any disciplinary letter, notice, order, or other paper received by the attorney."

The judge said the allegations of attorney misconduct leveled against Woodruff in the Superior Court's disbarment order are serious.

Manglona said a stay of proceedings pending a final adjudication of misconduct may be adequate where the attorney is not actively practicing in the district court and, therefore, the risk of injury to litigants from failure to impose immediate reciprocal discipline is zero.

Since Woodruff represents some clients in active cases in federal court, Manglona directed Woodruff within the last five days of each month to notify the court of the progress of his disciplinary matter in the Commonwealth courts.

Manglona said any failure to comply with her order may subject the lawyer to fines imposed for civil contempt.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Woodruff's disbarment in June 2013 for committing a total of 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

On June 14, 2013, Manglona gave notice asking Woodruff to explain why a reciprocal discipline should not be imposed on him based on Wiseman's order.

In his response to the notice, Woodruff noted that Wiseman's order is not a final order of discipline as he [Woodruff] exercised his right to appeal and request a stay of sanctions under the CNMI Disciplinary Rules.

Manglona then set a show-cause hearing for tomorrow, Friday. That show-cause hearing is now cancelled. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Inos replaces Tinian rep on CPA board

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board will soon have a new member after Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed a new Tinian representative.

Inos has named Michael H. San Nicolas to the position vacated by Manuel Villagomez. His appointment requires the consent of the Senate. If confirmed, he will serve the unexpired term of Villagomez, whose term expires on June 4, 2015.

Villagomez, together with other CPA board members, turned in their courtesy resignations soon after Inos became governor in March. The governor accepted the resignation of Villagomez and Connie Igisomar, a board member representing Saipan, but retained five others. Igisomar was soon replaced by Frances Mafnas.

The CPA board is currently composed of board chair Jose Lifoifoi, members Kiyu Villagomez, Mafnas, Barrie Toves, and Fermin Sakisat. Benigno Sablan has been re-appointed and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Also on Wednesday, the governor re-appointed two individuals to the Commonwealth Election Commission: former CEC board chair Frances M. Sablan and Trinidad L. Rabauliman. These appointments also require Senate approval.

If confirmed, Sablan will serve for another four-year term expiring on Aug. 8, 2017. Rabauliman's new term is up to Aug. 8, 2017.

Unlike other boards and commissions, CEC has nine members composed of five from Saipan and two members each from Rota and Tinian.

If confirmed by Senate, Sablan and Rabauliman—both from Saipan—will rejoin colleagues Jesus Sablan for Saipan; Leilani Manglona and Josepha Barcinas for Rota; and Juan Santos and Donald Hofschneider for Tinian.

Saipan has two vacant seats on the board. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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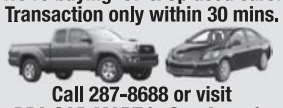

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Chamber president: Lone hospital needs business plan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan believes that without a legitimate business plan, the government should continue to subsidize the operations of the Commonwealth Health Center in order for it to survive.

Speaking before the Chamber's monthly meeting Wednesday at the Kanoa Resort, the Tan Holdings executive said the issue on CHC's business plan, or lack of it, cropped up during his and the Chamber board's meeting with Office of Insular Affairs acting assistant secretary Eileen Sobeck.

He said the OIA official's update on CHC's current state provided some interesting, if not troubling, insight.

"Apparently, CHC has expended all direct CIP and technical assistance grants for the CNMI this year because CHC was in such a state of disrepair, and they almost lost their ability to operate. Heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, as well as fire suppression systems at the hospital, were in dire need of financial support. OIA supplemented this year's CNMI funds to continue essential services. My question is, what happens next year? Or the year after when the hospital is still without a business model that keeps them afloat?" Sablan said.

The Chamber president, however, clarified that CHC is not solely to blame for its problems.

He said the hospital went from having a $38-million budget to barely $5 million with no tariff increases, no receivable collection plan, and no marketing plan.

"The board and management were left to fend for themselves and craftily received a loan from MPLT [Marianas Public Land Trust] to bail them out for the time being. When will we realize that our emergency, primary, and tertiary care will not pay for itself, when close to 70 percent of the clientele walking in and out of the hospital is indigent and without means to pay for services? Without significant public subsidy, the hospital is on the brink of collapse and our lives are all at stake because of it."

"No business plan or model can be devised for the only island hospital that by law cannot turn away patients where the vast majority of these patients can't pay for services. We did this to ourselves because we passed a bill to turn it into a private entity or quasi-government entity without a business plan, without a plan whatsoever behind it. We need a plan behind CHC. I don't think there is one and we have a large number of people who are indigent that have no means to pay. I believe we do need a hospital that protects the individual and that has healthcare for everyone but we also need a government that realizes this hospital cannot operate without financial support."

Sablan urged the Inos administration and the Legislature to fund CHC anew to ensure that issues with emergency, primary, and tertiary care are properly addressed.

"We do not have to use scarce OIA funding to fix hospital air-conditioning, when by the stroke of a pen our leaders caused this havoc on our society. We need our government to make the tough decision to properly fund all the essentials; public health, public safety, and public education."

Sablan pointed out that the Chamber has been investigating over the years the possibility of creating an Asian retirement community in the CNMI. However, without decent medical services, this economic bonus made possible now by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act will never be realized, he said.

"It needs to be funded through the general fund and whatever that number is to be determined. There has been no report in recent memory that lays out that that hospital can operate on its under its own guise. I'm fearful that we're inviting people to invest, we're inviting people to come and stay but we have a hospital which is not all together there."

Sablan also made clear that his rant against CHC and its problems are not directed to its hard-working personnel.

"I give all the props and kudos to all the individuals that are working together and putting it together as best as they can, day in and day out, with as little resources that they have. But again it all comes down to the need for a business plan behind it and we need to get the government supporting it again."

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NMC receives clean audit report for sixth consecutive year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the sixth consecutive year, the Northern Marianas College has received the best possible audit opinion—an unqualified opinion—on its financial statements, and, for the first time in its history, the college has received an unqualified auditor's opinion on its internal control and compliance report.

An unqualified opinion means that the financial statements presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of NMC as of Sept. 30, 2012, and conforms with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.

According NMC chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero, the college's independently prepared audit identified no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material noncompliance with the college's financial statements.

She also reported that the internal control and compliance report that was prepared by the auditing firm contained only two findings and no questioned costs, also a first in the college's history.

The two findings that were identified by the auditor involved the discrepancy of information concerning the maintenance-of-effort amounts that were reported for the College Access Challenge Grant, a federal grant the college administers to help boost college enrollment among underrepresented student groups. One of these findings has since been resolved. The college has initiated resolution of the remaining finding and is awaiting final determination by the grantor agency.

"The college handles millions of dollars in transactions each year, and receiving an unqualified opinion for the fifth year in row demonstrates that the college is extremely committed to improving its finances," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., adding that like in the past few years, NMC is continuously improving its management of its finances and its internal control measures.

Hart said yesterday that NMC has made significant progress in reducing operational expenses in key areas of the college and continues to explore other sources of revenue to boost the financial stability of the institution.

A copy of NMC's financial audit, prepared by J. Scott Magliari and Co., has been transmitted to the Office of the Public Auditor. Copies of the audit can be downloaded from the OPA website and on the NMC website.

For the college CFAO, the clean audit report was a result of team effort and the college's diligent adherence to rules and policy.

"I recognize the efforts of the departments, staff, and expenditure authorities for working diligently to follow the rules and I am proud of our finance team and their extraordinary dedication and commitment to improving our financial management, internal controls and compliance," said Guerrero.

Last year, the college noted that audit firm Deloitte and Touche representatives indicated that NMC is one of the most financially compliant and stable government entities in the CNMI and the region.

For NMC Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama, the clean audit is a testament to the institution's strong internal controls.

"These audits are confirmation of the college's strong internal controls and mechanisms. I commend the staff and their diligent work in the effective and efficient management of NMC's finances," said Lizama.

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New Peace Corps director arrives in Pohnpei

Robert Reid arrived in Pohnpei July 17, 2013, and began his work as country director of the U.S. Peace Corps in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

Reid has nearly 40 years of experience in both the government and non-profit sectors. Prior to his selection for his current position, he spent over five years as the resident country director in Mongolia for the Millennium Challenge Corp., where he was responsible for $285 million in projects. The Mongolian government awarded him eight medals, including the Presidential Friendship Medal. Before his transfer to MCC, Reid was USAID's senior development advisor to the U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. He has worked for USAID and non-profits in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Tajikistan. As associate director for international operations with Habitat for Humanity International, Reid supervised projects from East Europe to East Asia and the Pacific Islands, including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and the Cook Islands.

Reid

Reid started his international development career as a community development Peace Corps volunteer, helping to form local community groups to assess community needs. As the chief of operations for the Europe, Mediterranean and Asia Region of the Peace Corps, Reid worked with staff in Washington and 21 countries that stretched from Morocco to Mongolia to the Philippines to develop agency and regional policies, and to implement programs involving 2,000-plus volunteers and staff.

Reid started the Peace Corps program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also served with Peace Corps as country director in Uzbekistan and Jamaica, programming and training officer in the Dominican Republic, acting administrative officer in the Dominican Republic, training director in Tuvalu, and project director in Fiji.

Reid is joined in Kolonia by his wife, Jinny Chun, an attorney advisor with the U.S. State Department. His three children are grown, and he has two grandsons in Fiji. His best foreign languages are Fijian and Spanish, and he is a founding member and past vice president of the Friends of Fiji. Reid looks forward to using his decade of experience in the Pacific Islands to work closely with the people and officials of the FSM and Palau to ensure that the Peace Corps responds effectively to local needs. ***(U.S. Embassy)***

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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 9, 2005

Fantastic Four
A total of 105 candidates have filed their intent to run for office in the Nov. 5, 2005 general elections, as the deadline for submission of petitions for candidacy ended yesterday afternoon. As of 4:30pm yesterday, the Commonwealth Election Commission has received petitions from four gubernatorial tickets: incumbents Juan N. Babauta and Diego T. Benavente of the Republican Party, Benigno R. Fitial and Timothy P. Villagomez of the Covenant Party, Froilan C. Tenorio and Antonio A. Santos of the Democratic Party, and independent candidates Heinz S. Hofschneider and David M. Apatang. The Republican Party has the biggest slate with 29 candidates, missing only one candidate for representative in the 2nd election district and another in the 3rd election district.

Benavente to attend Nagasaki event
Instead of Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente will attend today's 60th year commemoration of the Nagasaki bombing on Tinian. Press Secretary Peter A. Callaghan said yesterday that the governor has a schedule conflict. He said Babauta is set to meet with the 26-member Osaka City council at 10am today at the Governor's Office. At 11am, the governor will attend a public briefing at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on power situation. The Tinian event, which will be held at North Field, begins at 10:30am.

August 9, 2006

Courts want new fees
The CNMI Judiciary wants to increase most of the existing court fees and start charging for currently free services. The proposed fee schedule was submitted to the Legislature for approval on Friday, Aug. 4, 2006. It will become effective 60 days after submission unless disapproved by either the Senate of the House of Representatives. The fee changes would apply to both the Supreme and Superior Courts. Some existing charges would increase by 17 percent, while other fees would more than double. For instance, each filing of a civil complaint in the Superior Court would cost $150, a 50-percent hike from the current rate of $100.

School aircons break down due to outages
Due to the recent islandwide power outages, air-conditioners of the William S. Reyes Elementary School have conked out and would require immediate repairs. WSR Elementary School principal Alfred Ada told Saipan Tribune that six of the school's 80 air-conditioners have broken down due to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. load shedding schedule. Ada said the outages have melted and burned the outlets for the air conditioners. He admitted, though, that most of the school's air conditioners are old and would soon need replacement. Other units would also have to undergo preventive maintenance. Since the new school year has already started, the school would need these air conditioners repaired. "It's really affecting our classes," Ada said.

August 9, 2007

Chamber members stand ground on federalization
By a secret vote, members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce confirmed their leaders' stance on the federalization of local immigration yesterday. Some 120 members participated in the vote. They easily agreed on issues such as the conduct of a pre-implementation economic study, U.S. border control, exit requirement for foreign workers, and impact funding. However, the members were slightly more polarized on the proposal to grant permanent status to long-term guest workers. Some 35 percent voted against the group's official position, and backed the immigration bill's "grandfathering" provision.

Plane's nose gear fails on landing
Passengers were shaken when the nose gear of a small aircraft from Tinian failed upon landing on a Saipan International Airport runway yesterday morning. No one was injured in the incident. The plane, a Cherokee 6300 operated by Freedom Air, suffered minor damage to its propellers. Stanley Torres, acting executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said the incident took place shortly before 8am Wednesday. The nose gear collapsed upon landing and the plane skidded down the runway for 100 to 200 yards. On board the plane were one male and five female passengers, as well as the pilot.

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EDITORIAL

Permanent vacation

Congress has left Washington for a five-week summer vacation without passing an immigration reform bill. Unfortunately, it's unlikely to do much more on the issue before it goes home for the winter holidays.

The Senate did its job, pooling just enough Republicans to vote with the Democratic majority for comprehensive legislation more than a month ago. But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., hasn't sent the bill to the Republican-dominated House, which, if it passes anything, is likely to take smaller, separate steps.

GOP House members aren't feeling any pressure. There's no clamor for reform in safe districts created by Republican state legislatures. Consider the atrocious remark of Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who said Mexican children brought here illegally have "calves the size of cantaloupes" from carrying bales of marijuana. He was rebuked by House Speaker John Boehner., R-Ohio, but he must have felt that his words would play well among his constituents.

The White House recently issued another report detailing the prospective benefits of immigration reform. It estimated that giving legal status to more immigrants would increase the number of taxpaying young workers, resulting in an additional $300 billion for the Social Security Trust Fund over 10 years. The report also noted that the Senate bill protects native workers by requiring that they be given preference for jobs before skilled foreign workers may be hired. It also requires that fair wages be paid to temporary employees to prevent American workers from being undercut by cheaper labor.

The report cited a study finding that ending the exploitation of immigrants would raise the "wage floor" for all workers.

Of course, none of that will matter if immigration reform doesn't clear the House. Some observers took heart in May when the House Homeland Security Committee voted unanimously for a bill dealing with border security. But that rare show of bipartisanship didn't blaze a path for further cooperation on the issue.

The Senate bill requires spending $46 billion to hire 20,000 more Border Patrol agents and construct 700 miles of fencing. Rather than specify spending, the House committee's bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to ensure apprehension of 90 percent of those crossing the border illegally within 33 months by using radar, cameras, and aerial drones.

That unrealistic goal is as bad as the Senate bill's big spending to address a problem that doesn't deserve such extravagance.

Since the recession eliminated many American jobs, the number of people illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has dropped significantly. That hasn't stopped some Republicans from appealing to the worst instincts of xenophobes. They will prevail unless the House finds the type of bipartisan leadership that moved the Senate bill.

Business groups and other powerful corporate supporters of the Republican Party have tried to garner House support for an immigration bill. But much of the GOP's grassroots support doesn't seem to care.

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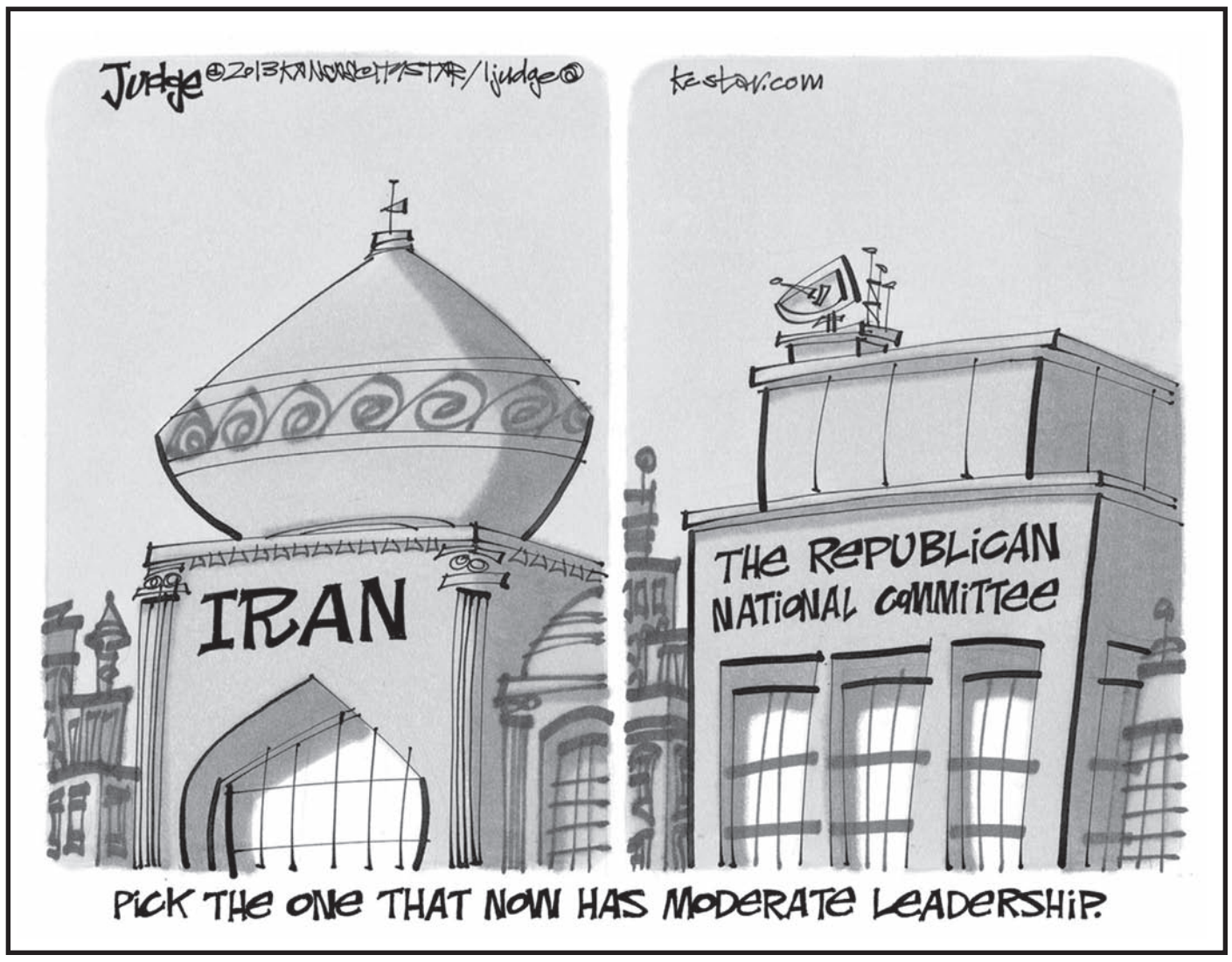


EnglisChEnglish is cricket

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Let us decode the word in the title first. *Englische* is Deutsch for English, *EnglisCh* with the dropped "e" is our word for English "with Chinese characteristics," capitalizing the "C" at the end, our play on the Zhongguo's description of its brand of socialism. *ChEnglish* is our respectable version of the media *Chinglish,* often pejoratively associated with pidgin in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Cricket is England's bat-and-ball game the Brits left with former colonies and is annually played as a national sport in many countries particularly in Oceania, Australasia, USA/UK/Canada, and anyone else who has any relationship to Eton and Harrow.

My British colleague, fluent in his *Putonghua,* has been on campus for seven years teaching not only the refinements of the Queen's English but also getting the university to play cricket, and in the process, translating the game's terminologies into Chinese. The game played in our university is one of the few in the country. This past year, a Chinese player was listed for the first time in one of the Clubs in England for a season, compliments of our neighbor.

After seven years of knocking his aptitude on the stone wall of translation, my colleague finally realized that to make sense of the sports' terms, one need to understand it as a people's way of transforming the gladiatorial juices of Rome without the requisite job of blood-letting common to the Coliseum. In short, the game is a civilizing process, "to cricket the wicket while bowling the ball," as it were!

To its favor, the Brits kept the human touch in cricket while America, in the other bat-and-ball version called baseball, adopted to precision of technique at the solo confrontation between the batter and the pitcher, reducing the game to a battle of statistics and numbers. In the same way, the fellows still muddle through rugby while America masters bullish tactical strategies on its misnomered game of "football." (International football is soccer.) In any case, when someone says that something is "cricket," it usually means social acceptance with royal favor and imprimatur to boot!

We answered our rarely used telephone in our room this week while nursing a dreadful diarrhea with flu-like symptoms and a pleasant female voice on the other end started making a tele-pitch. We followed the mellow voice that lacked the irritating pushy quality of others, and after 15 seconds listening, I finally asked: "Do you speak English?"

Her response was predictable. "OMG, no, my English is very poor," she said, sounding like one of my students. "Do you speak Chinese?" she asked in a clipped accent. It became clear in the exchange that she spoke perfectly good English but that she had to utter the customary apology first for poor usage. The teaching of the language is heavy on the "proper usage" side, syntactically and otherwise. Students tend to be over-corrected when speaking so that they readily clamp up, or echo the apology first (to take care of *mianzi,* face), before speaking.

To speak like the Aussies and NZ kiwis, the Brits and Gringos, the Canucks and the Anglo-Euros, a formidable task by itself considering the diversity even within each group, has been the aim of English pedagogy in China. That leaves 90 percent of the English-speaking population sheepishly using *EnglisCh.* They are the ones who often hear that their grammar and pronunciation is not cricket!

When students start university, they spend the first four weeks in uniform marching to the bark of a sarge's *yi-er-yi* (one-two-one) in between the *li zheng* (attention) and a merciful *shao xi* (at ease). In class, I combine both and ask students to "play attention" to themselves and their environs for it is in the articulation of their experience and self-understanding that they are graded in Oral English. (We contrast our wordplay to "pay" attention and its commercial implication.)

"Play attention to your EnglisCh," I say. "The *mianzi* stays outside the door, and you can speak the way you normally do. I will tell you how you may say it differently in Chicago when necessary." Students in class often say, "I born 1992 November" or, "I very shy." Some do not quite follow my "where do you live?" question, but if I say, "Your home is where?" or, "Your name is what?" I am in good Chinese form.

In short, *EnglisCh* in my class is cricket.

England's cricket was for the sake of the empire! The civilizing process from Alexander astride his mane, the Mongolian horde holding captives by the hair, or the Urdu-speaking lads bowling the ball, civilization as we have known it has been a top-down affair where the powerful impose their will on the captive audience, even if the French made it their "mission to civilize" in mid-1800s.

A Bangledeshi and a Pakistani, an Indian and a Sri Lankan in the Friendship Villa quad on a summer afternoon pitching on the wicket, oblivious to historic animosity when their armies are at each other's throat along each other's border, all speak their brand of English. The learning and speaking of *EnglisCh,* a new playing attention process, is aimed to sweep the East. It may not be cricket to eggheads, but in my classroom, it is a treasured currency of discourse.

The teapot toward Tinian

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Our evening skies are presenting another great treat right now. After it gets dark you'll be able to see a "teapot" of stars in the southern skies. By my reckoning, which is very sloppy and very approximate here, the teapot will be due south of Saipan at about 9:40pm, and roughly 45 degrees over the horizon.

For its part, the moon is just a thin sliver now, so its light won't be washing out the rest of the skies.

The teapot is actually derived from part of the constellation Sagittarius, a word I can't even spell right on a dare.

Anyway, even a bad speller like me can recognize the teapot in the sky. It's formed by eight fairly bright stars, with the handle on your left as you view it and the spout to the right. It even has a lid on the top.

Some things are better drawn than written, so I'll put some links on my website so you can take a look. Just find your way to my "recent columns" link.

When you look at the teapot's spout you're looking toward the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way. Depending on how cooperative the skies are, you may see Milky Way's star-rich band arcing across the sky. It's really packed with stuff near the teapot, owing to the density of stars and other stuff along our line of sight in that direction, since the center of the galaxy is more dense with stars.

We can't actually see the exact center of the galaxy itself, since there's so much dust and debris in the way.

The easiest thing to see in the teapot region is the Lagoon Nebula, which is a celestial oven that is cooking up new stars. All that cosmic heat and radiation creates a glowing field of gas, which is what accounts for the eerie, and spectacular, sight.

You don't need a telescope to see the Lagoon Nebula. Even a so-so pair of binoculars will give you a view. That's why I'm mentioning it. This is an exotic sight that's easy to see.

If steam was rising straight out of the teapot spout, it would hit the Lagoon Nebula about five or six degrees over the spout. For the sake of comparison, your fist at arm's length covers 10 degrees. Follow those directions, and you should see a faintly glowing fuzzy smear of area. That's the nebula. In fact, once you've seen it with binoculars, it's pretty easy to detect with your bare eyeball, though it takes clear skies for that.

My luck with Saipan's skies has never been very good, I'll admit.

Although eyeing the teapot allows us to look closer to downtown Milky Way, we'll never be able to take a drive across our hometown galaxy, not even in a turbo-charged rocket ship. The galaxy is too big. The Milky Way is 100,000 light-years across, which is pretty typical by galactic standards. It has anywhere from 100 billion to 400 billion stars in it. Again, pretty typical.

The last estimate I heard is that every star probably has, on average, between one and 1.5 planets orbiting it. That came from a guy who earns his living finding planets. So there are surely a whole lot of worlds out there. Right now, some columnist for the *Zepkron Tribune* is probably writing about what they can see with octon-oculars this weekend, something to keep all eight of their antennae-mounted eyeballs entertained for the evening.

As for us earthlings, we're perched in the galactic suburbs, about halfway between the edge of the galaxy and its center.

We also have a sister galaxy out there, roughly the same as ours, and gravitationally bound to us, called Andromeda. Andromeda is also easily visible with binoculars, but that's a topic for a different day, or, actually, for a different month.

But while we're on the binocular topic, I'll alert you to something that just came to my attention. In my Nov. 2, 2012, column, "Scoping out paradise," I wrote about testing an array of binoculars on a beachcomber's budget. "Budget" and "good binoculars" don't usually go together, but, as I reported, I found an exception, the Nikon Action line. The subsequent months have reinforced my positive impression, as my Nikon Action 10x50 binocs have seen heavy use and have given great service for star-gazing. Alas, when I recently tried to buy another pair to give as a gift, I discovered that this line has been discontinued. Argh!

The only thing more consistent than Newton's laws is the fact that whenever I find a really good product, the doggone thing gets discontinued. Come to think of it, maybe that's just the economic corollary to Newton's Third Law.

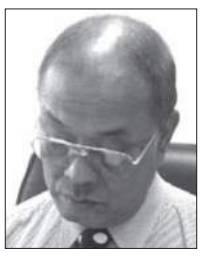
Anyway, I'm going to see if there's something else in this niche worth latching on to. It may be the case, though, that the sub-$100 binocular realm is too barren to bother with now. If anyone has any ideas, please send them along.

In the meantime, I'll be aiming my optics at the teapot and its Lagoon Nebula. And, who knows, if the skies are clear, maybe I'll see all the way to the planet Zepkron, where I'll catch a glimpse of eight beady little eyes looking back at me.

GOP regroups while viciously fracturing

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The NMI Republican Party has elected a new set of officers recently. Although it has suspiciously pieced itself after the impeachment of its chairman, the group still suffers from the lingering fragmentation into splinter groups: Covenant, Independent Republican, and Republican.

The departure of former governor Juan N. Babauta before the meeting two weeks ago is further indication of the vicious fracturing of the GOP as it attempts to fix its shredded sails. The persistent bolting of loyalists is another indication of GOP fatigue. It has lost its solidarity after the impeachment of its former chairman, who is now hiding in the Philippines.

The splintering of the GOP leaves wide open next year's gubernatorial contest to the most charismatic person ready to move forward with a set of realistic plans to revive a listless economy. Right now, the pulse of the community is simple: Most folks are suffering from Republican fatigue, Covenant fatigue, and Independent Republican fatigue. It makes planning, strategizing and navigating the campaign trail unpleasantly difficult. It's inevitable the triad fragmenting, persistently.

There are politically ultra-sensitive and equally fatal bedrock issues luminaries must answer without choice. These are difficult issues they've stashed away like mature mango needing potassium nitrate to ripen up overnight. Each is back to haunt them. Have you something to offer in realistic fashion beyond skirting the real issues?

They include the economic and fiscal disaster where 6,000 people are jobless, the under-employed where some 52 percent of employees' salaries fall within the federal definition of poverty income level, a bankrupt Retirement Fund forced into insolvency by politicians; prohibitively high cost of utilities shutting down businesses while consumers cringe each payday; a large number of people (33 percent) who don't have health insurance yet can't qualify for food stamps and Medicaid; and 4,700-plus folks living in real time poverty.

The toxic combination of these issues languishing in the sea of neglect and mediocrity is no walk in the park either. It's one steep and rough climb from A-Z. We'd be prepared to hear the usual redundancy, "Biba!"—for what?

Reinventing paradigms

The CNMI has had its share of boom and bust. When the latter descended all over these pearly isles we started working on radical measures to shore up investment.

These measures aren't the answers either but confirm open denial that they would eventually turn self-defeating in the end. Can't fathom why more debts in the midst of bankruptcy. Isn't it true that the Fund has total liability of more than $1 billion, discounting central government debts?

Reinventing paradigms is the very issue that needs serious revisiting. Is it too difficult realizing that even with radically regressive or fiscally predatory measures, we'd still be pushing and perpetuating the failed policies of the past?

The prohibitive cost of utilities has forced a significant number of businesses to put up shutters permanently. We double up hardship against the most productive sector by piling more fees and taxes, as though it is the Holy Grail to perking more revenues.

Haven't these extra costs (in bad economic times) exacted the complete opposite? If you will, Detroit has the third highest tax rates across the country. Did it get more money to pay off its $18.5 billion debt? Am I making sense? Why are we shooting off the hip on serious fiscal matters?

Was land alienation an impediment when we had the boom of the '80s? Furthermore, why did we crash land and was anything undertaken to ease the deepening fiscal meltdown? Would adding piles of debt stir economic growth? What really is the missing link that is the culprit of fiscal dysfunction? We were royally negligent, weren't we?

Standard of leadership

The other day I heard a Harvard University professor explain what it takes to move listless economies to productive levels or beyond conventional wisdom.

He said, "Leadership must be equipped with formal credentials, vision and clarity, ability to articulate them, commitment and integrity" to move the needle. He explained in greater detail the correlation of formal credentials in the role of leadership. It prepares them to move forward in decisive fashion leading, not managing. There's a huge difference in the two terms.

The professor noted how Asia encouraged its young people to secure an education in micro-technology. It has since thrived with tons of young, talented, and educated employees and managers engaged in real time manufacturing. Africa took technology on genetics to improve food production. Other than a wild ride into the abyss of economic misery, what has CNMI leadership done to improve the lot of the multitude?

A brewing fiasco

Interesting the twist and turns of political jostling on the JG Sablan permit effectively terminated by court decisions—Supreme and Superior.

It seems, however, politicians associated with JGS feel otherwise, demonstrating their lack of understanding that the issue has been legally adjudicated by the court and is constitutionally reserved to the DPL. I venture to say that any and all political interference on the JGS permit is itself a blackmail or in its simplest form, corruption.

The Executive Branch via DPL has litigated the permit, court invalidated it, and legislative branch must respect it—no more, no less. To do otherwise is to violate the basic tenet inherent under the doctrine of separation of powers. Didn't we learn this in high school civic classes?

■■■

Former residents of Pagan may not have title to any of the land they occupied decades ago. But one thing doesn't change: The land belongs to the indigenous people of these isles.

It is "home" for those who grew up in small villages on Pagan, Alamagan, and Agrighan. Home isn't a place in the prism of these islanders. There's that longing in their soul searching for home so that in the end they return to familiar settings as they set sail into the sunset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No change in Church's teachings

Gay leaders, including the U.S.-based New Ways Ministry, are celebrating after Pope Francis said, "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?" They think the Church has changed a little bit.

The Church has in fact not budged at all with her stance against sin. A sin is a violation of God's law. It was so before, it is now, and it will always be. So, if these gay leaders think that Pope Francis and the Church will not lower the boom on same-sex marriages, they must be dreaming.

It has been the teaching of the Church that homosexuals are children of God and they should not be discriminated against in the Church. It is not their human nature that is repugnant to the Church and to God. Rather, it is their sin.

So, when a priest is a homosexual, that does not in itself show that he is unworthy to remain a priest. But when it has been shown that he has committed sexual acts as a homosexual, then he should be dismissed as a priest. Similarly, an applicant for priesthood who has shown proclivity to committing homosexual acts, it has been the Church's teaching not to accept him for priesthood.

Pope Francis and his predecessors have all taught these principles. They are the unchanging teaching of the Church. Pope Francis vigorously opposed the same-sex marriage law in his home country in Argentina while he was archbishop there. As Pope, he will continue to oppose it.

Reynaldo O. Yana
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

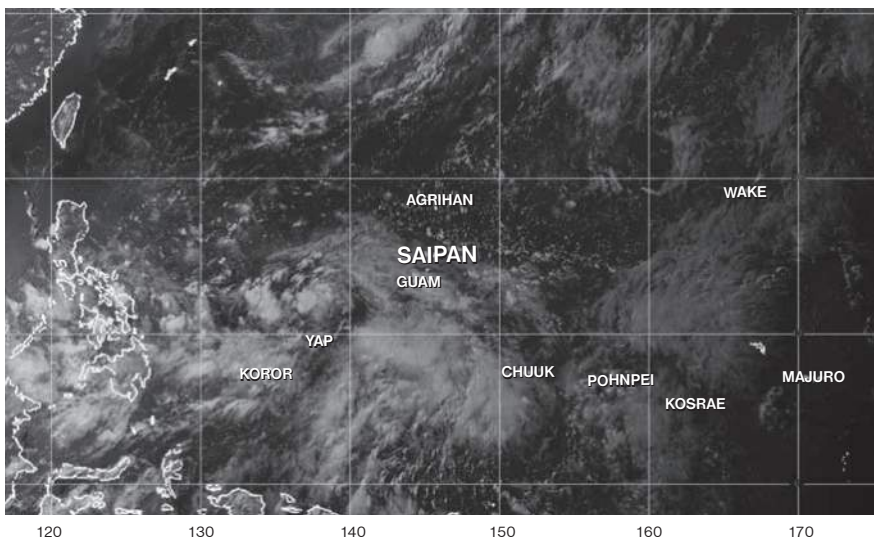
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼73
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲76	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼73
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲98	▼80
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲89	▼79
Rome	Thundershowers	▲88	▼71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼61
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼81
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A broad monsoon trough extends east-northeastward from a weak circulation east of Mindanao to 9N130E to 11N141E then continues eastward to south of Guam at 10N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the area bounded by 10N130E to 11N139E to 15N141E to northwest of Guam at 14N144E to 11N145E to south of Chuuk at 6N152E to 2N140E to 5N134E back to 10N130E. This includes Palau and Yap along with western Chuuk state. A weak surface trough northeast of Pohnpei extends from 9N160E to 13N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles either side of a line from 12N158E to 8N166E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers south of Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 158E to 161E. An upper-level low centered near 21N162E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 22N168E to 20N170E to 16N170E and isolated thunderstorms west of Wake within 50 miles of a line from 19N161E to 22N163E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:39 AM	8:07 PM
Saturday	8:29 AM	8:47 PM
Sunday	9:20 AM	9:29 PM
Monday	10:12 AM	10:12 PM
Tuesday	11:06 AM	10:59 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A living wage

I would like to share my thoughts on the issue of minimum wage and wages in general that our people are now receiving and hope that these thoughts will spur some debate among our leaders and those concerned about the Northern Marianas we love:

1) One fact is clear—the cost of living in the US Northern Marianas is the highest among any U.S. jurisdiction! And the main reason for this is that we are wholly dependent on imported goods and services! To make matters worse, we are the only U.S. jurisdiction where its inhabitants continue to live not under a similar U.S. state but rather under Third World conditions!

2) I would like to argue that holding back any increase in the minimum wage is not in the best interest of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. In fact, I can argue that the people of the Northern Marianas deserve more than just a minimum wage—we need a much higher living wage, not a slavery wage as we now have! While we have to balance business interests and the welfare of human beings, I would like to side with our people's interests who are now going into the private sector for job opportunities in increasingly greater numbers.

3) One of the biggest problems facing our wage earners is that most of them get a raise only when the minimum wage is increased by force from the feds. This is absolutely not the way to treat our workers and this includes all workers—foreign and local workers. Our government could be the worse offender in that many of its workers have not even received a penny raise in some 10 years. This is most disgusting and appalling—and I am talking about a U.S. form of government!

4) I have worked with some of the best companies in both the U.S. mainland and Guam and believe me, they all pay very good money, where employees are considered as No. 1 assets. Here, unfortunately, we still consider employees as a thing that can be easily replaced by political or other means. It is about time that we have an employees' manual where employees clearly know their benefits and wage entitlements—performance based on what to expect of them—and what to expect from their employers, both in government and private as well.

5) Another concern that I have with government employment here is the discrepancies in which we compensate employees at all levels. If one looks into each department and agency, the directors and secretary level positions can differ by as much as $100,000 per year in compensation. This inequity is counter-productive, discriminatory, and uncalled for. There has to be a better qualifications and experience, especially for those positions that are supposedly non-political.

It is my belief that people should be paid for what they are worth, most especially if they are well-qualified and experienced. Though I was one of the victims of compensation discrimination during the U.S. Trust Territory days when I was employed in the mid-'70s, I hold no grudges against anyone but I always take this issue as a very serious matter. In fact, I eventually resigned from my job where I was only getting paid 30 percent of the amount that an American was getting paid at the time for comparable experience and qualification.

Everyone in the Northern Marianas deserves a good life and a good living. If Guam can do it, why can't we also do it? We should not be afraid to take as they say "the bull by the horn" and just do it in the best interest of all our people. Our people have been crying for help for the longest time—they need better and more affordable healthcare services, they need more affordable goods and services, and they need many other things that would make them feel truly part of the great American family. And having a good living wage is part of the solution!

Juan S. Demapan
San Vicente, Saipan

Untapped resources

H.L.B. 18-14 proposes a $5 entrance fee intended for the NMI descents' education. Not for you, Mr. Mayor. I suggest that you and the legislators get together and get your funding through their community service employees.

And let me further suggest that maybe a $6.50 entrance fee and no departure fee will be a better way to promote our destination's inbound market. Remember, Hawaii and Guam have better offers to tourist. The $6.50 will be distributed this way: $.50 to Tasi Tours, $50 to DPL to pay the collectors, $.50 to DLNR for the environmental impact, and $5 to the NMI descents' education.

Let me suggest that maybe Business Licensing, DPL, Taxation, and DLNR can get together and start charging fees to tourist service providers, the same that the water sport industry is charged. Jungle tours pay nothing except for a $50 business license and because they collect cash they also pay zero taxes, even while they drive into our beaches and public lands and cause trash and environmental damage. The trekking business is big business but do they pay the same fees as water sports? They use public lands. The rent-a-

See UNTAPPED on Next Page

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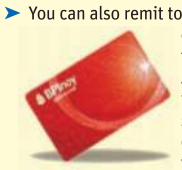

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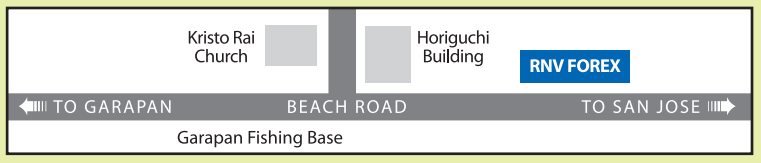

"Para sa mabilis at matipid na pagpapadala ng pera sa Pilipinas, Mag BPInoy Remittance na.
Dahil and marunong humawak ng pera, sa BPInoy remittance nagpapadala."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Missing the point

Mr. Segundo Castro's letters to the editor have so far missed the point I was making about the struggle of the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Now Mr. Castro has found a petition that he said I participated by signing as one opposed to the idea of open immigration of people to the islands of the NMI. I do not remember signing a petition being advocated by Mr. Juan Babauta or any of his cohorts. I do want to tell Mr. Castro that I do not favor mass immigration to these islands for a reason. These reasons are local, national, global, present and future trends of these islands. What rational solution do we have today that would ensure that these islands are preserved for the indigenous people of these islands? This is the only issue that I expressed and pointed out.

If Mr. Castro is uncertain about the quest of the indigenous people, then those who follow national and global events would find Mr. Castro engaged in fantasy and delusional trance. One is overwhelmed by the ideology of the American Dream and keep forgetting that the islands of the CNMI would never turn out a place like Modesto, Palo Alto, or any stateside community that may represent the American Dream's lifestyle. But we could not dismiss the claim of global turmoil progressing to the point that the islands of the CNMI would one day collapse the way the Easter Islands met its doom or how the Fijians lost all local control of their own islands because of the resulting immigration impact over the course of a short period of time. And, then again, these islands have very limited habitable land areas and could only sustain a certain number of permanent residents. To suggest that the present population is minimal is like saying that an excessively overweight person is a natural phenomenon.

The nations of the world are struggling to find solutions on basic issues such as shortage of fresh drinkable water, fast depleting oil reserves, food shortages, world overpopulation, religious conflicts, boundary disputes, political chaos and uncertainties around the world. Many nations are facing contractions and retrenchments, the natural resources of the world are being depleted without replacement and restoration, and in the end only a dominant world power would find ways to take charge of world events.

The U.S. government has its own domestic problems, but consequential world events are showing signs of stress and hardships where global solutions are directed to what is good for the dominant nations. Where is the CNMI pacing itself in response to global trends unfolding in present day history? Are we as a people really looking and justifying for our indigenous children where modern America is taking us as we grope in the fantasy of the American Dream? It is something to think about, and many like myself view disrupting the natural growth of population and losing sight of who we are as a recipe for despair and demise of a people that once inhabited these islands. It is a sad story in the history of a people that made these islands indigenous of Chamorro and Carolinian people.

With this in mind, our conversation takes a high note as we sing our CNMI anthem as we take pride and in unison we say: *"Mit besses yan mas usaluda hao."* It is our song of pride and love of our islands. Preserving them is as native as being Chamorro and Carolinian in our own islands.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Indigenous

We call ourselves indigenous groups but when it comes to a needy situation, we or our government will turn its back on our very own. We have saved the CNMI government thousands of dollars in potential medical bills relating to an indigenous individual from the CNMI who is now in California and $3,000 to $5,000 a shot were being administered three times a week for such an individual in the Central Valley, thanks to the State of California, for our government has no money to pay for that individual's medication.

Our government can afford 50 new full-time employees at our governor's office this coming budget year, but this office will not fork out $3,000 (for the individual's family mentioned above) to relocate the rest of the family from the CNMI to California. Do we look the other way and let the family continue to suffer for another two decades? As a society, are we going to continue to let our government make our so-call indigenous people suffer due to their mismanagement or negligence? Are we going to continue to fight for our indigenous rights since our own system is flawed? We want to preserve our so-called indigenous identity, but when it comes to helping each other, we tend to look the other way and we distance ourselves from one another.

Based on historical records, there was no such thing as pure Chamorro during the 1700 in our island chain. The Spaniards massacred our indigenous male population and forced our indigenous female to inter-marry with other ethnicities. Such practices were common during the 300 years occupation of the Mariana Islands by the Spaniards, so any potential or future uprising of the Chamorros in our island chain against the Spanish government will be prevented. So for anyone to claim the Northern Mariana Islands as only their own is in itself biased, for the island chain belongs to many lineages or multiple ethnicities. How do we define true Chamorros or true Carolinians this point in time? My half-Korean, -Chinese, -Filipino, -Palau, -American, and -Pohnapeian cousins are indigenous. For those who were born in the CNMI, no matter what race they came from, they are indigenous to the Marianas and that is how it should be.

Segundo Castro
Marpo Valley, Tinian

UNTAPPED

From Page 13

car companies rent out their vehicles and the tourists drive rampant around the island and into the beaches. Charge them an annual fee.

The illegal taxis are easy to catch. Just dial the telephone numbers that are readily available. Bring them in and give them a taxi license so they can pay taxes. Legal taxi companies sell everything under the sun to tourists: water sport, trekking, diving, jungle tours, etc., which cause environmental impacts. Charge them an annual fee.

It is time for all to step up to the plate—from the governor and Legislature, to all government departments. There is a lot of resources out there. For example, business people that are not U.S. citizens come to Saipan and work here under the guise of their company but do not pay employee withholding income tax, FICA, etc. Meanwhile small local businesses are well rooted in this economy and have kept the CNMI afloat but they continue to be punished and not recognized.

Manuel J. Alvarez
Garapan, Saipan

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Documentation fees and registration not included.
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Florida-based expert to hold 2-day photography workshop

Visiting graphics specialist and photographer Erich Caparas will be holding a two-day workshop on "Photoshop and post-processing" for a limited pool of Saipan photographers this weekend.

Caparas, who is based in Florida, teaches experienced photographers how to take their craft to the next level by applying advanced lighting techniques and high-end post processing concepts.

Caparas has been a freelance graphic consultant for all aspects of graphics. His clients included Unisys, Deloitte Touche and Tohmatsu, Euro Disney, McDonald's, and Warner Bros.

"We are excited to have him here for this workshop, and hopefully this won't be the last," Saipan Shooters member Hervin Jacinto told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "I believe this is the first time that a workshop like this will be held here."

Caparas created "The Longest Print in the World" as applied for in the Guinness Book of World Records. This was a 4x68.1 seamless photographic print unveiled in front of the Washington Monument in 1996.

He won first place in an international digital competition in New York in 1995, and has 10 digital pieces on permanent archive at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Caparas earned an economics degree at George Mason University and has a master's degree in engineering administration at George Washington University.

The Saturday and Sunday workshop, organized by photographer Antonio Cabrera, will be held at Room N5 of Northern Marianas College, from 9am to 5pm.

Jacinto said they have limited the workshop to five individuals, but may take at least two more participants. The workshop fee is $500. Interested individuals may contact Jacinto at 285-5952.

Workshop sponsors include Saipan Computers and Ideal Signs, Bridge Capital LLC, TSL Foundation, Herman's Bakery, J's Restaurant, and NMC's Community Development Institute. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Sales and customer service training starts Aug. 19

Pinnacle Staffing, LLC in association with the Bridge Project, Inc., will be conducting a four-day training in sales and customer service program.

Focal points for the training include key aspects of being a route or product sales person out in the field as well as those selling in a retail environment.

The course is set to begin Aug. 19, 2013, and slots are limited. For more information, e-mail contactus@pinnaclestaffing.co or call us at 234-3015.

The training program is made available through a grant awarded to the CNMI Department of Commerce, Forum on Economic and Labor Development Grant.

Pinnacle Staffing is locally owned and operated by Winfred Camacho and Roy Ada. It is a staffing, training, and testing organization. According to its website, the company was established to meet the changing dynamics of the CNMI's workforce.

Pinnacle Staffing aims to assist employers meet their short-term and long-term workforce needs.

Bridge Project, meanwhile, signed a memorandum of understanding with the CNMI Department of Labor last year that solidified their commitment to teach Labor applicants basic work and job search skills so they could land jobs in a tight local market.

Under the MOU, the Division of Employment Services will refer registered applicants to Bridge Project to be trained.

Bridge Project will then provide U.S. eligible workers a foundation of job search skills to increase their chances of being interviewed and hired. Bridge Project will then provide Employment Services a listing of all graduates that have found jobs and are pending for job referral services. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Man directed to answer charges of possession of bullets and pot

The Superior Court has found probable cause to charge Barry Lloyd Lizama with unlawful possession of ammunition and illegal possession of controlled substance.

The 40-year-old Lizama was recently arrested on Capital Hill for alleged possession of five bullets and marijuana.

At a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, police detective Jeffrey I. Norita told the court about the circumstances of Lizama's arrest on July 4.

When Lizama's counsel asked Norita how he was able to determine the marijuana when it was not tested, the detective explained that he believed it was so based on his police training.

When Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho asked whether it was also based on experience, Norita replied "yes," drawing laughs from some police officers in the courtroom.

Norita said it was patrol officer John Mendiola who pulled over Lizama's car when the officer spotted the vehicle parked on the eastern grassy parking lot with its headlights turned off and brake lights activated near the Retirement Fund building at 10:28pm. When the officer made a U-turn, Lizama's pickup truck's headlights turned on and the vehicle pulled out from the lot. The officer stopped the truck. Three more officers came and searched the truck. They allegedly found five live bullets and possible marijuana.

In 2003, Lizama, through counsel David Banes, filed a maltreatment lawsuit in federal court against the Department of Public Safety and some policemen.

Lizama alleged that a police officer grabbed and twisted his right arm to handcuff him during a questioning in connection with an investigation of a domestic violence case.

The lawsuit was dismissed in 2004 after the government settled the case. The terms and conditions of the settlement were kept confidential. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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USP4GG garners almost 2,000 petition signatures

In an effort to accommodate the public in the petition signing regarding the proposed amendments to Section 2109 of S.744, the comprehensive immigration bill, officers, members and volunteers of USP4GG will be holding the last day for the petition signing on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 9am to 7pm at the Filcom Pavilion, near Sabalu Market, said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG Marianas chapter.

This extension was decided to give opportunity to those who have missed the two weekends to sign the petition.

The group has already gathered almost 2,000 signatures from different ethnic groups. The public is advised that there is no collection of money or fees involved in this petition signing.

Some religious groups such as Iglesia ni Kristo have asked to wait for the signatures of their almost 400 members. Some members of the group even expressed willingness to become USPGG volunteers for this cause.

Pastor Danny Ibanez of the Upper Room Christian church also reached out to Filipino workers on Tinian in addition to their church members on Saipan. Other pastors who are helping this cause are Noel Puno, Paul Medina, Tony Gelua, Brendon Perez, Alvaro Samonte.

Last Sunday, Fr. Romil Aperocho, spiritual director of El Shaddai Prayer Partners, welcomed Lamkin to the San Antonio Church to discuss the issue.

An online petition by the USP4GG has started today, Aug. 9. It can be viewed at https://www.change.org/petitions/the-us-congress-end-discrimination-against-cnmi-residents-in-us-immigration-reform-bill.

The petition letter itself has already been delivered to House Speaker John Boehner; Rep. Bob Goodlatte, chairman, House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security; Rep. Ted Poe, vice chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security; and members of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. The petition was submitted to these officials with the help of Washington, D.C.-based USP4GG member Eric Lachica.

"I am so happy that the petition is now with Speaker John Boehner and the chair of the Judiciary Committee and members and officials of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. Let us all pray that they will consider our proposed amendments to the CNMI provision in the immigration reform bill," said Lamkin. ***(USP4GG)***

PH consulate sets 12pm cutoff time

Filipino nationals who want to avail of the authentication services of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam have until 12pm today, Aug. 9, to submit their request at the Dai-dai Social Hall at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

According to Consul Edgar Thomas Q. Auxillian, they decided on the 12pm cutoff for authentication services to give his staff ample time to accomplish the request before the end of the three-day mobile consular services, which ends today.

Authentication services include report of birth, marriage, and death. The consulate general is also offering other services like passport applications and renewals, civil registry and notarial services, acknowledgements (special power of attorney, general power of attorney, contracts), jurat (affidavits), NBI clearance applications, and authentication/verification of employment contracts.

Auxillian and company just came from Tinian where they also conducted mobile consular services that benefited a total of 88 passport applicants and 43 people who needed notarial services.

For more information about the mobile consular outreach on Saipan, call the Philippine Consulate General in Guam at 682-2222 (toll free). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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*LEE DONG SOO GOLF Apparels
(One of the Korean Best Golfwear Brand)
Summer Bash Promo
*Family Package: $150 good for 10 Person Including Pool Pass
*Food on Platters: Good for 20 Person (Every Saturday and Sunday)
Please call 236-8831/32 for Reservation.
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(Fish, Pork or Chicken) with 3 Game Ball
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LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

A fourth group of 10 caregivers are certified on Aug. 7, 2013, at the Continuing Education Training Room of the Palau Community College. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palau college certifies fourth group of caregivers

PALAU—A fourth group of 10 caregivers was certified on Aug. 7, 2013, at the Continuing Education Training Room of the Palau Community College.

Sen. Rukebai Inabo and Minister of Health Gregorio Ngirmang were present to commend the caregivers, alongside PCC president Patrick Tellei, CE dean Willy Wally, and Dr. Sylvia Osarch.

So far, a total of 46 caregivers divided into four groups have been certified by this training program.

The first group is composed of Analyn L. Custudio, Audrily Osarch, Baily Nanawa, Benita Gabriel, Dechol Ngchar, Edward Charles, Eleanor Manor, Heidi Yoach, Jenifer Teliu, Jovanna Imengel Ito, Lemerie Tatingal, Lsau Masayuki, Miriam Chin, Razel C. Cuenco, and Yolanda Doktok.

The second group is composed of Alvina Marcil, Evalind Adelbai, Federica Balasbas Bukringang, Felomina E. Medina, Julita Tellei, Fraulein Rengiil, Malintha Wasisang, Mercy F. Ricky, Nora T. Nanca, and Rodora Atibagos.

The third group are Huana Nestor, Melinda Wasai, Marivic K. Damian, Lizle C. Delos Santos, Morris Philip Apresto, Camille M. Reyes, Luzviminda Gatdula, Jugie Lea C. Montano, Villy C. Candari, Jennifer Mulsima, and Annabelle Tuquero Selario.

The fourth group are Petra R. Glenn, Gloria L. Camacho, Sarina Taguba, Edna B. Dematawaran, Danilo S. Calaunan, Cheene Jane T. Arbis, Cherlita T. Arbis, Rose Ongalibang, Rebecca Liguton Crausus, and Gemma P. Sison.

Osarch has been a dynamic force in the development of this program. She was involved in research that surveyed the condition of bedridden patients in Palau. The research found that about 400 individuals on the island were bedridden, a majority being of old age.

A training course was formed through the collaborative efforts between PCC and the Ministry of Health based on a model provided by Dr. Ritabelle Fernandes of the Geriatric Education Center at John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii.

Geriatric is a branch of medicine that focuses on the medical care of elderly individuals.

During the graduation of the fourth group, Osarch shared with Inabo and Ngirmang her vision for the program. She believes that caring for bedridden individuals, especially the elderly, is not only a personal obligation but a cultural expectation. She believes that people who take upon caregiving duties should be compensated for their efforts, like the babysitters being compensated through the funding provided to the Palau Community Action Agency.

Inabo and Ngirmang expressed willingness to support the program as well as promote its continuity.

The caregiving program is a free training program open to all who are interested. Classes cover topics about caregiving such as personal hygiene care for patients, food management, and personal stress management for caregivers. Persons interested in participating in the program may visit the Continuing Education Office at Palau Community College, or call 488-2470/7471 Ext. 237 or 488-6223. ***(PCC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2587 • Fax. 664-2571

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to submit its Abbreviated State Plan for Fiscal Year 2014. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, and the Program Integrity Assessment in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress, accomplishments, and problems that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan and Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1341.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipåttamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Programan Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anunun sia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha Abbreviated State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2014. Komu ma'aomenta hålum i katotsi (14) gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u ma'otdin para i kinimpli ni, yan I Program Integrity Assessment anai siña para u marisibi I salåppi', ya manmadimånda han lokkui' para u maripot todu I adilåntu, kinemplidu yan prublema siha ni ma'ekspirensia gi halum I manma'pus na såkkan I prugråma. I LIHEAP na programa heneråtmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kåndet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiåtmente para ayo I man kuålifikao na man åmko, yan/man inutit, yan pumalu siha na indibiduåt ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku heneråt komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plånun este na inadulånta para u ma'ågang Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan yan Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinan gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todu eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para mås infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ågang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisinå-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1341.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekke arongaar toulap igha ekke mángiiy bwe ebwe féérú seféliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2014. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkuléém ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, me kkemalul programma, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféér ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróóma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe ffaingiir Ilimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me Sóumwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifoon kka 664-2568 ngare 664-2569 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1341.

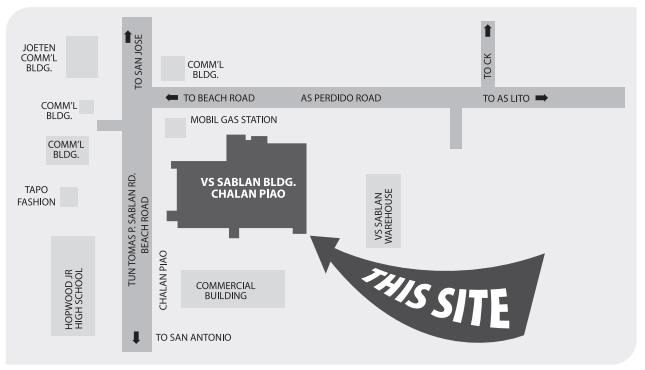
Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóól Luuta, Tchúlúyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyéélágh kkaal.

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
Secretary, DCCA

Date: 07/23/2013

Venue	Scheduled Dates	Time
Tinian-Tinian Gymnasium	August 02, 2013	6:00 pm
Rota-Rota Roundhouse	August 09, 2013	6:00 pm
Saipan-Multi Purpose Center	August 16, 2013	6:00 pm

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

STUDENT ORIENTATION NMC

Northern Marianas College student Kathleen Laurio speaks to new and returning students about registration for the college's upcoming fall 2013 semester at a recent student orientation. Registration for NMC's fall 2013 semester begins on Monday, Aug. 12, and will continue until the day of late registration on Friday, Aug. 16, 2013. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu.

Registration for NMC fall semester begins Monday

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's upcoming fall 2013 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 12, and run through Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is on Friday, Aug. 16, 2013.

NMC offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. Students may schedule to take the placement tests by contacting testing coordinator Daniel Kintol, at 234-5498 Ext. 6774 or visiting the Testing Center in Building I. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisers, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules.

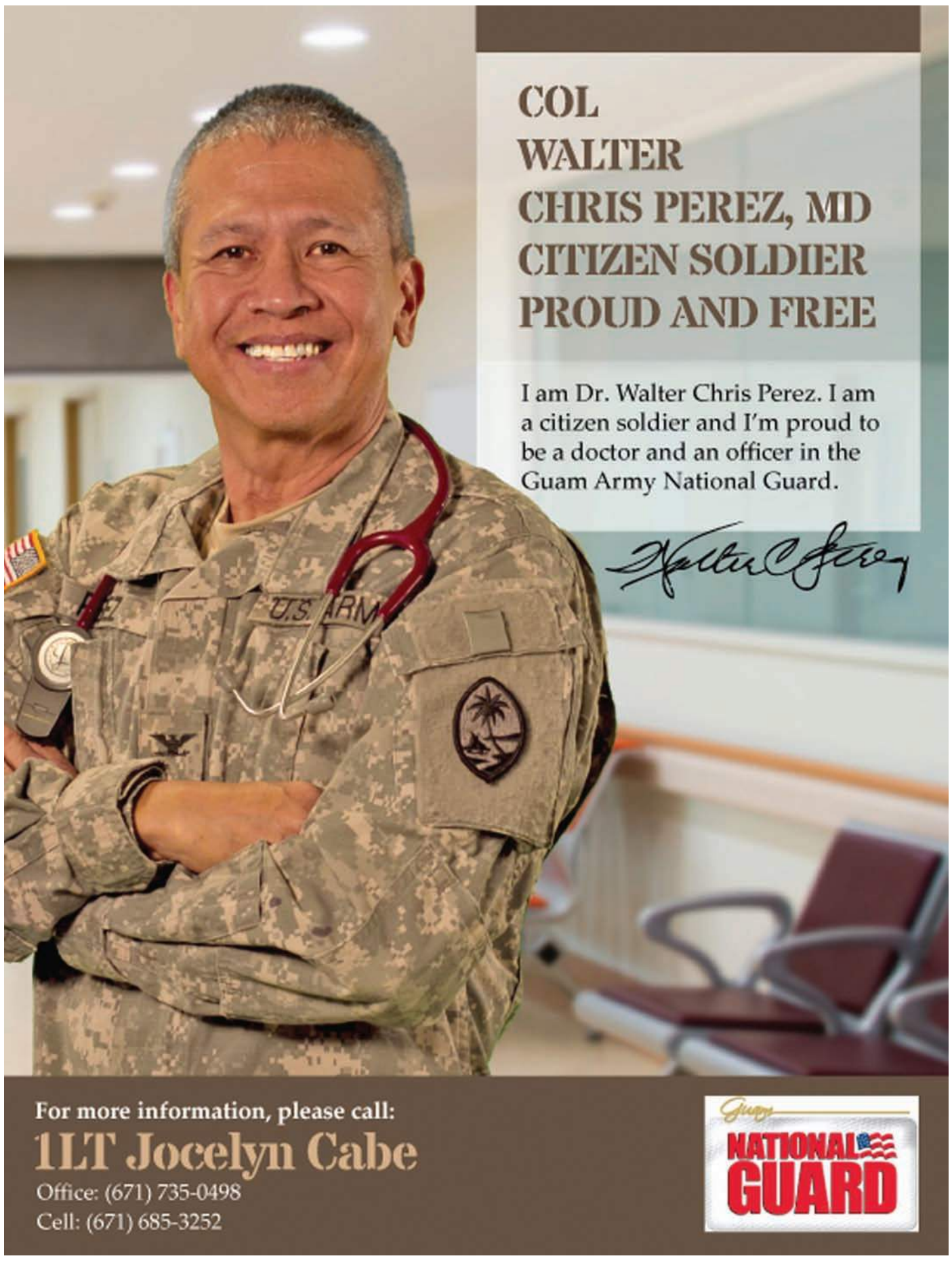
Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Aug. 12:** Registration for students with PC #s 000000100 through 000013000
- **Aug. 13:** Registration for students with PC #s 000013001 through 000016310
- **Aug. 14:** Registration for students with PC #s 000016311 through 000018400
- **Aug. 15:** Registration for new, ongoing and re-admitted students, and students with PC #s 000018401 and Higher
- **Aug. 16:** Late registration

Ongoing students must obtain registration clearance at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any holds exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 6778/6769.

For additional information about registration for the fall 2013 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 6778/6769, or log on to www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***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NATIONAL GUARD

Investing in 'paradise' no-brainer for Russian businessman

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
Igor Karapetyan, general manager of K Family LLC, speaks to members of the Chamber of Commerce during the organization's monthly meeting at the Kanoa Resort.

Igor Karapetyan first learned about Saipan five years ago but soon forgot about it because of the rigors of running his business.

Then a year ago, a friend from Russia who already has a business on the island called him up and told him to come and visit the capital of the CNMI. The rest was history.

Karapetyan, general manager of K Family LLC and guest speaker in Wednesday's Chamber of Commerce meeting at Kanoa Resort, came to Saipan on April 12 and stayed a week.

By November he had bought the Family Building in Garapan, opened Volcano Tours, and just recently acquired the quaint Paradise Hotel across the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan.

He will soon unveil a coffee shop on the ground floor of the Family Building and has set his sights on a fastfood restaurant at the strategically situated Paradise Hotel along Middle Road, with easy access to visitors of patients at the hospital.

"We think about special place for people from other island, they can stay in our hotel and eat at our restaurants," he said in his halting but charming English.

After successfully luring Russian tourists to the islands, Karapetyan is about to enter the growing and very lucrative Chinese tourist market. "Because Chinese tourists very much like it here."

In general, he said, establishing a business on Saipan is easier than in his home country.

"For example, zoning and public works rules and regulations are very understandable here. If you read Russian rules sometimes you don't understand what these guys want from you…it's true…You must get this document. You have to print one more document. Then one more document and one more document. Then you have to pay fantastic amount," Karapetyan said candidly.

Investing in the CNMI does present its own unique set of problems, he said.

"I think I will not surprise you if I tell you about Article 12 and [that there's] no visa [available] for Russian investors. It's a big problem really. Some people won't come here because they can't buy property. They think 'why go there when I can go to the U.S. mainland and buy land and get an investor's visa.'"

One particular experience that had him fuming was his dealings with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"I was surprised on my one big bad experience on Saipan which is CUC. They really cheated my money. I bought Family Building with all the deposits including CUC but these guys maybe think this Russian don't know [how to do business] here. They said 'you want to open new accounts then you put money for deposit."

Karapetyan pointed out the previous owner already put down a deposit of $30,000 and so technically there was supposed to be no required deposit in the first place, which infuriated him more. "It's the same in Russia. I'm surprised really."

A week passed and there was still no answer from CUC, which had him thinking whether his case is an isolated one or inherent in the system.

"I understand CUC is a monopoly. It's like gas in Russia… every year it's plus 15 percent, plus 15 percent, plus 15 percent…I understand it's business. It's life but I think I was cheated and that's not good."

To make a long story short, Karapetyan eventually was able to recoup part of the original owner's deposit but only after having all the building's tenants—27 of them—open their own accounts and make their own deposits at CUC.

Despite his beef with CUC, Karapetyan has only good words for Saipan and the CNMI.

Saipan made quite a good first impression on him in April 2012 that he dropped his plans to settle and invest in the U.S. mainland while waiting for his green card and opened shop here.

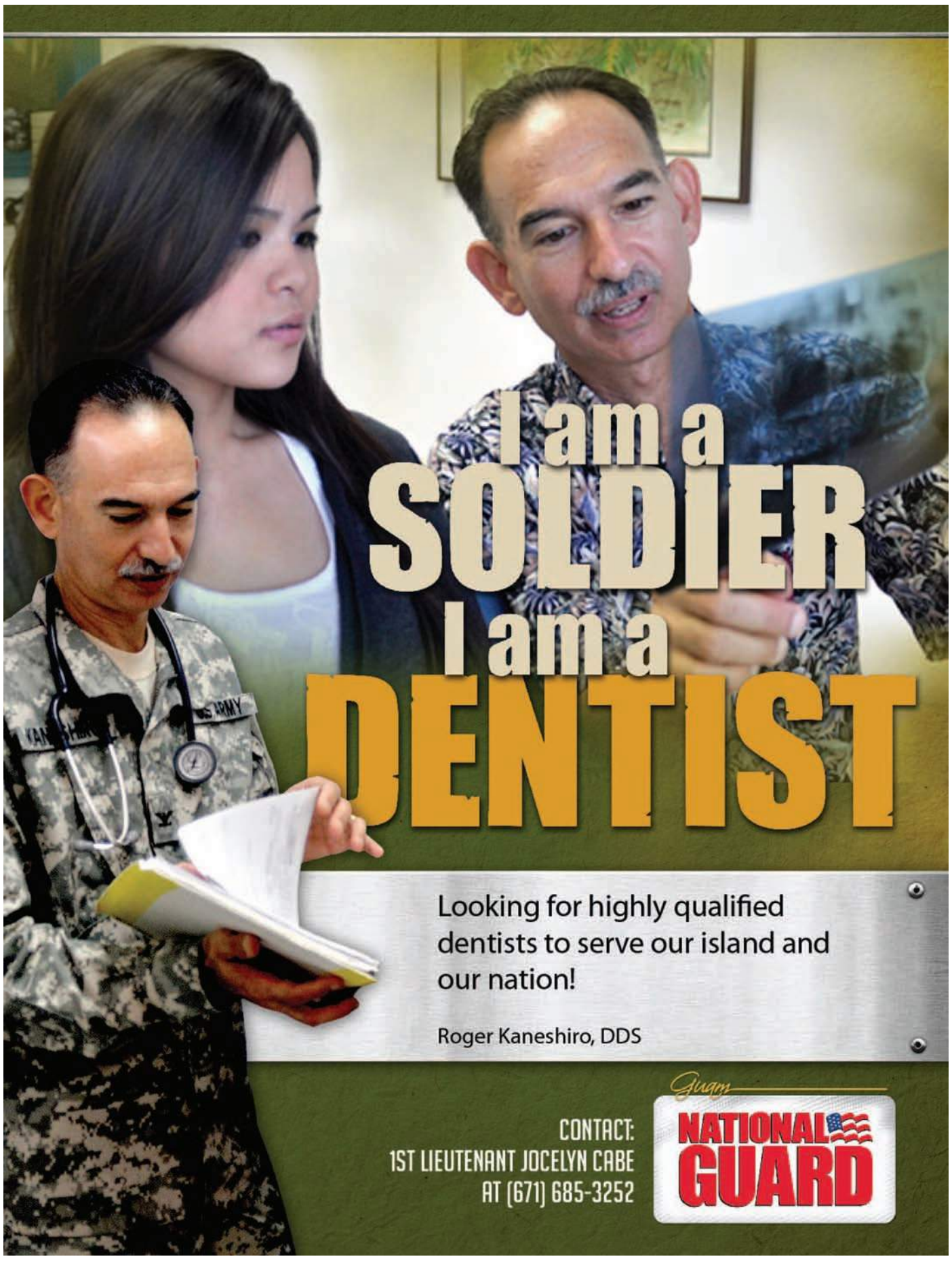
His wife didn't get that kind of experience though, as Karapetyan laughingly remembers. He said her first week on the island was in the midst of a monthlong monsoon.

Karapetyan said the local government also should do better job promoting the islands, which he describes as paradise.

He said the CNMI can lure not only tourists but investors as well, especially since a number of the former Soviet Union's middle class are looking overseas to plunk down their hard-earned rubbles.

He said the Marianas Visitors Authority should take a cue from the tourist bureaus of former Iron Curtain countries like Slovenia and Croatia, whose advertisements of their countries are frequently shown in Russian TV.

"Saipan has no oil or gas but God blessed Saipan with fantastic nature!" he reminded everyone.



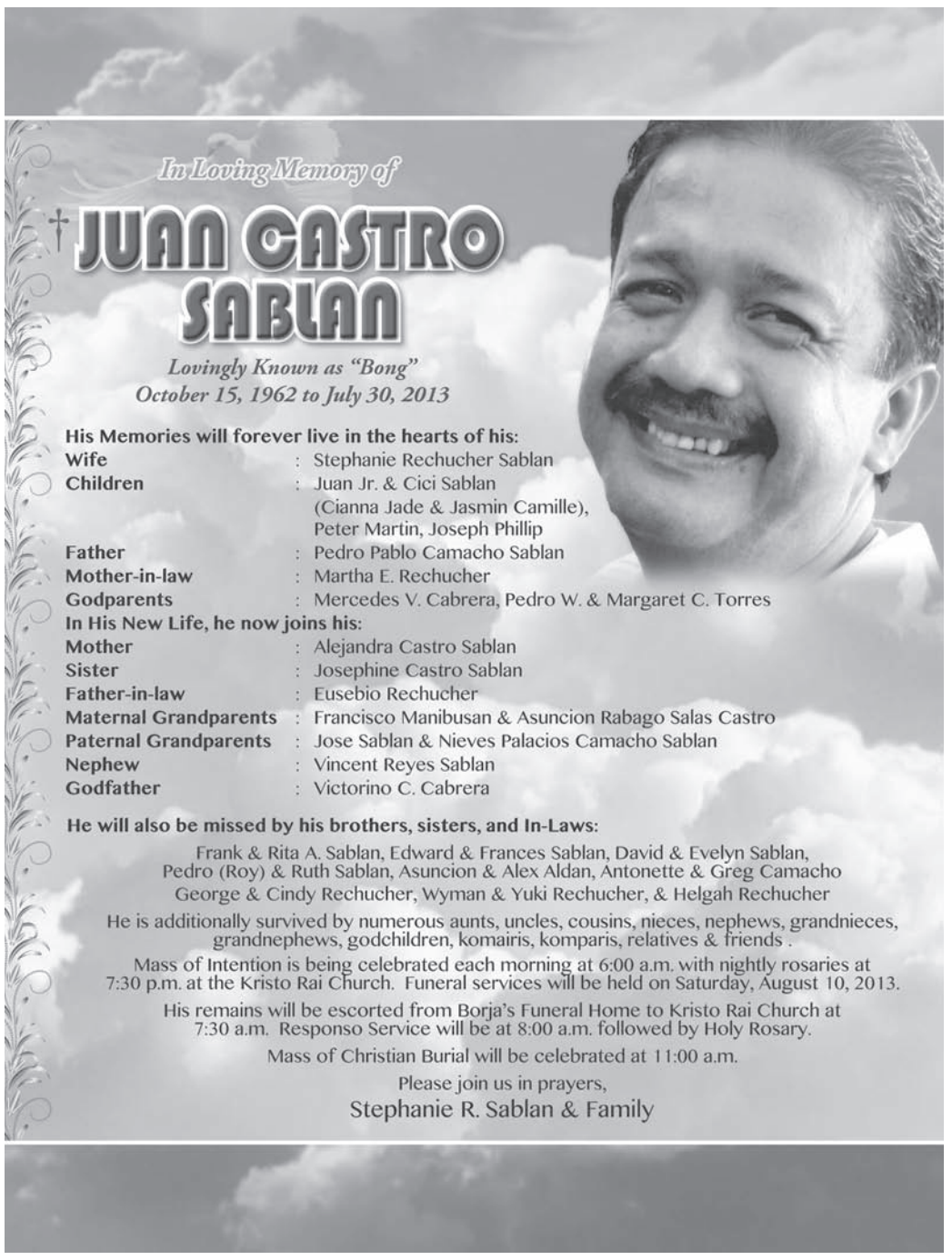
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Deanna Louise Borja Nishimura! Hope you have a great day! Wishing you more blessings in the year ahead and an outstanding and fabulous birthday! Greetings come from your family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Lenelle Rylie DLC Bansil, who is celebrating her 7th birthday on Aug. 10, 2013! May you have lots of love, joy, and blessings on your big day and always. Love, Daddy, Mommy, Leo, Lea, and your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


In Loving Memory of
JUAN CASTRO SABLAN
Lovingly Known as "Bong"
October 15, 1962 to July 30, 2013
His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife : Stephanie Rechucher Sablan
Children : Juan Jr. & Cici Sablan (Cianna Jade & Jasmin Camille), Peter Martin, Joseph Phillip
Father : Pedro Pablo Camacho Sablan
Mother-in-law : Martha E. Rechucher
Godparents : Mercedes V. Cabrera, Pedro W. & Margaret C. Torres
In His New Life, he now joins his:
Mother : Alejandra Castro Sablan
Sister : Josephine Castro Sablan
Father-in-law : Eusebio Rechucher
Maternal Grandparents : Francisco Manibusan & Asuncion Rabago Salas Castro
Paternal Grandparents : Jose Sablan & Nieves Palacios Camacho Sablan
Nephew : Vincent Reyes Sablan
Godfather : Victorino C. Cabrera
He will also be missed by his brothers, sisters, and In-Laws:
Frank & Rita A. Sablan, Edward & Frances Sablan, David & Evelyn Sablan, Pedro (Roy) & Ruth Sablan, Asuncion & Alex Aldan, Antonette & Greg Camacho George & Cindy Rechucher, Wyman & Yuki Rechucher, & Helgah Rechucher
He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, godchildren, komairis, komparis, relatives & friends .
Mass of Intention is being celebrated each morning at 6:00 a.m. with nightly rosaries at 7:30 p.m. at the Kristo Rai Church. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2013.
His remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 a.m. Responso Service will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.
Please join us in prayers,
Stephanie R. Sablan & Family

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-024

TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Tank Nos. 103, 120 & ISO Tank Cleaning at CUC Power Plant, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The "CUC" or "Corporation" currently operates multiple diesel engine generators at its Power Plant Nos. 1 and No. 2, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. The CUC is soliciting proposals from experienced contractors or specialist firms experienced in the cleaning of fuel storage tanks up to 1 M USG capacity.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It is the corporations' desire to undertake cleaning of the Bulk tank # 103, as soon the new tank #102 under construction is commissioned:

The work shall be done in two phases:
- **Phase 1 - Tank #103 (840,000 gal.)**
- **Phase 2 – Miscellaneous tanks – Tank # 120 (20,000 gal.) & ISO tanks, 2 ea. – 6,350 gal.**

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 29, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-022

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified consultant or consulting firm to review and revise the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's current Salary Administration Program (SAP), including the development of a performance management rating and payment system.

The RFP package and the scope-of-work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **August 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-022, Salary Administration Program", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Frankie Cepeda, CUC Human Resource Manager via email frankie.cepeda@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-025

TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the out of service inspection and integrity testing of the above ground oil storage tank (AST) # 103 and connected pipeline within the secondary containment at CUC Power Plant No. 1 in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The inspection is expected to be in two phases:
1. ***Out of service pre-repair inspection after tank cleaning, and***
2. ***Final tank inspection after performing the necessary repairs based on the scope of work developed during Phase 1.***

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 14, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Business

US consumer borrowing rose $13.8 billion in June

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans borrowed more in June to buy cars and attend schools. But they were frugal again with their credit cards, as many remain wary of taking on high-interest debt.

Consumers increased their borrowing $13.8 billion in June from May to a seasonally adjusted $2.85 trillion, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday in its monthly report on consumer credit. That's the highest level ever.

The category that includes credit card debt dropped $2.7 billion in June and remains 16.5 percent below its July 2008 peak.

Borrowing for autos and student loans rose $16.5 billion in June. Gains in this category have lifted overall consumer credit to record levels in all but one month since June 2011.

Since January 2011, the measure of student and auto loans has risen $312.6 billion. During that same 2 1/2-year period, credit card debt has increased just $16 billion.

The Federal Reserve's consumer credit report does not separate student loans and auto loans. But the Federal Reserve Bank of New York tracks consumer credit on a quarterly basis. Those reports show that student loan debt has been the biggest driver of borrowing since the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009. In part, that's because many unemployed Americans have returned to school for training in hopes of landing a job.

More credit card borrowing could help boost consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity. But many consumers have been hesitant to run up high-interest debt since the Great Recession ended. And this year consumers have been hit by higher Social Security taxes.

The economy grew at a lackluster annual rate of 1.4 percent in the first six months of this year. Economists expect growth is accelerating to an annual rate of around 2.5 percent in the second half of this year, as the impact of higher taxes and spending cuts begin to fade. Also, hiring gains are expected to boost income, supporting more spending.

The economy has been adding jobs this year at a steady but inconsistent pace. In July, employers added 162,000 jobs. While solid, that's much slower than the average pace of 192,000 new jobs a month so far this year. And many of the jobs added last month were low-paying or part-time.

The unemployment rate fell in July to 7.4 percent, down from 7.6 percent in June. The Federal Reserve's borrowing report covers auto loans, student loans and credit cards. It excludes mortgages, home equity loans and other loans related to real estate.

Rodgers is Bank of Guam's newest VP

HAGATNA, Guam—The board of directors, management, and staff of Bank of Guam announced yesterday the appointment of Elizabeth G. Rodgers as vice president and Dededo branch manager.

Rodgers

Rodgers has held a number of positions with the bank, beginning in 1986 and has been operations officer and manager, marketing business development officer and most recently as branch manager for Naval Station.

Rodgers relocated to North Carolina in 2003 for five years, continuing her education there while working for the North Carolina Council of Government under the mid-East Commission Area Agency on Aging, managing federal funds for five counties.

On her return to Guam in 2008, Rodgers worked at the Bank of Guam, and while here, obtained a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland in 2009. In 2013, Rodgers completed her masters in Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University.

Rodgers is also involved in the local community as a board member for the Salvation Army and is a member of Soroptimist International of the Marianas. ***(BoG)***

Group: Apps not effective tool for teaching babies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Smartphones don't make smart babies, an advocacy group declared Wednesday in a complaint to the government about mobile apps that claim to help babies learn.

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, whose allegations against "Baby Einstein" videos eventually led to nationwide consumer refunds, is urging federal regulators to examine the marketing practices of Fisher-Price's "Laugh & Learn" mobile apps and Open Solutions' games, such as "Baby Hear and Read" and "Baby First Puzzle."

The Boston-based group says developers are trying to dupe parents into thinking apps are more educational than entertaining. It's the campaign's first complaint to the Federal Trade Commission against the mobile app industry as part of its broader push to hold businesses accountable for marketing claims about their technology to very young children and their parents.

"Everything we know about brain research and child development points away from using screens to educate babies," said Susan Linn, the group's director. "The research shows that machines and screen media are a really ineffective way of teaching a baby language. What babies need for healthy brain development is active play, hands-on creative play and face-to-face" interaction.

The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages any electronic "screen time" for infants and toddlers under 2, while older children should be limited to one to two hours a day. It cites one study that found infant videos can delay language development, and warns that no studies have documented a benefit of early viewing.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Open Solutions said it agrees that electronics are not a substitute for human interaction. But it noted the many positive reviews its apps have received by customers.

"We also don't say `get this game and let it teach your child everything,'" wrote the company, based in Bratislava, Slovakia. "We assume (the) child is playing the game with parent/sister/baby sitter. We think we have apps that can help parents with babies, either by entertaining babies or help them see new things, animals, hear their sounds, etc."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-028

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PREPAID METERS

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-13-028, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 9, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 23, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email at alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org & Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles.warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BIDS
CUC-ITB-13-023

SURVEYED VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-13-023, CUC Surveyed Vehicles"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles.

The vehicles may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 235-7025.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 14, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Assistant for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Nation

Scientists plan controversial lab-made bird flu

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists who sparked an outcry by creating easier-to-spread versions of the bird flu for research purposes want to try such experiments again using a worrisome new strain. This time around, the U.S. government is promising extra scrutiny of such high-stakes research up front.

Since it broke out in China in March, the H7N9 bird flu has infected more than 130 people and killed 43. Some of the world's leading flu researchers argue that genetically altering that virus in high-security labs is key to studying how it might mutate in the wild to become a bigger threat to people, maybe even the next pandemic.

"We cannot prevent epidemics or pandemics, but we can accumulate critical knowledge ahead of time" to help countries better prepare and respond, Ron Fouchier of Erasmus University in the Netherlands told The Associated Press.

In letters published Wednesday in the journals Science and Nature, Fouchier and colleagues from a dozen research centers in the U.S., Hong Kong and Britain outlined plans for what's called gain-of-function research—creating potentially stronger strains, including ones that might spread easily through the air between lab animals. They say the work could highlight the most important mutations for public health officials to watch for as they monitor the virus' natural spread or determine how to manufacture vaccines.

The announcement is an attempt to head off the kind of international controversy that erupted in 2011 when Fouchier and Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, created easier-to-spread strains of another deadly kind of bird flu, the better-known H5N1. The concerns: How to guard against laboratory accidents with the man-made strains, and whether publishing findings from the research could offer a blueprint for would-be bioterrorists. The H5N1 work eventually was published.

Study ties higher blood sugar to dementia risk

Higher blood-sugar levels, even those well short of diabetes, seem to raise the risk of developing dementia, a major new study finds. Researchers say it suggests a novel way to try to prevent Alzheimer's disease—by keeping glucose at a healthy level.

Alzheimer's is by far the most common form of dementia and it's long been known that diabetes makes it more likely. The new study tracked blood sugar over time in all sorts of people—with and without diabetes—to see how it affects risk for the mind-robbing disease.

The results challenge current thinking by showing that it's not just the high glucose levels of diabetes that are a concern, said the study's leader, Dr. Paul Crane of the University of Washington in Seattle.

"It's a nice, clean pattern"—risk rises as blood sugar does, said Dallas Anderson, a scientist at the National Institute on Aging, the federal agency that paid for the study.

"This is part of a larger picture" and adds evidence that exercising and controlling blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol are a viable way to delay or prevent dementia, he said.

Because so many attempts to develop effective drugs have failed, "It looks like, at the moment, sort of our best bet," Anderson said. "We have to do something. If we just do nothing and wait around till there's some kind of cocktail of pills, we could be waiting a long time."

About 35 million people worldwide have dementia; in the United States, about 5 million have Alzheimer's disease. What causes it isn't known.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-SA-002-13**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Contractors are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-002-13"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ~~**10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013**~~, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Chair of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: July 25, 2013

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:006 T 18	**SAN JOSE VILLAGE TINIAN**	**MINIMUM BID :**	**$**	**56,219.36**
LOT NO.:006 T 201	**SAN JOSE VILALGE, TINAIN**	**MINIMUM BID :**	**$**	**56,044.39**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on August 26, 2013, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be $(please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Master card). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
8. Lease with Option to Purchase. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following additional terms and conditions:
   a. The Lease Price bid shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
   b. An up-front payment of ten percent (10%) of the Lease Price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Master card).
   c. The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at six percent (6%) per annum.
   d. Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments only and not installments toward purchase and shall not grant the lessee any equity or ownership interest in the property or be construed in any way to encumber NMHC's rights, title and interest in the property beyond the granting of a lease for a specific term of years.
   e. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be thirty (30) years.
   f. A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
      i. No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
      ii. Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
      iii. Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
      iv. Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
      v. Failure to make a monthly payment grounds for termination and eviction.
      vi. Lease may, at the request of lessee, contain an Option to Purchase provision exercisable upon: (A) payment in full of the Lease Price; (B) the Lease not having been declared to be in default; and (C) payment of $100.00 option consideration. If the option is properly exercised, a quitclaim deed will be given.
   g. In the event of competing lease bids, greater weight will be given to the leasehold offer with the better price, shorter term and larger monthly payments.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2013

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

FBI reopens 1964 kidnapping case after DNA testing

CHICAGO (AP)—The FBI said Wednesday it is reopening its investigation into the 1964 kidnapping of a newborn boy from a Chicago hospital, after recent DNA testing revealed that a boy found in New Jersey more than a year later and returned to the elated parents wasn't actually their son.

Paul Fronczak, 49, is a married father of his own now and works as a college administrator and living in Henderson, Nev. He told the Chicago Sun-Times in June that he had long wondered why he didn't resemble his parents, Chester and Dora Franczak, so they underwent DNA testing earlier this year to see if he was their biological son. He wasn't.

Fronczak said he wrote his parents a letter when he got the results to let them know.

"I really feel in my heart that the real Paul Fronczak is alive and well and out there, and nothing would make me more happy in this life than to find the real kidnapped child and at the same time, I wouldn't mind finding out who I am," Fronczak told the newspaper. He said he came forward with his story because the case is unsolved.

Hundreds of police officers and FBI agents searched for the Oak Lawn couple's newborn son after his abduction from Michael Reese Hospital in April 1964. The case came to an apparently happy end more than a year later when an abandoned child resembling the Fronczak's baby was found in New Jersey and returned to them.

A woman who answered the phone Wednesday at a listing for Dora Franczak in Oak Lawn told the AP she declined to comment about the reopening of the investigation, saying, "I don't have any remarks about that." In June, she spoke briefly to the Sun-Times, telling the paper, "We went through this once, and we certainly don't want to go through this again."

Joan Hyde, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Chicago office, said the bureau decided to reopen the Fronczak case after reviewing the original case file.

"We decided it merited another look," Hyde said. "The main thing is to look at physical evidence and see if technology and tests that weren't available when the case was originally worked could provide leads."

Hyde said the bureau could interview witnesses as part of the investigation, which she said is expected to "take time."

Paul Fronczak didn't immediately respond to an AP phone message seeking comment Wednesday. But he told KLAS-TV in Las Vegas this year that he is trying to learn his true identity.

"I don't know how old I am, or who I am, or what nationality, all those things you just take for granted," Fronczak said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Powerball official: 3 winners for $448 million pot

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Powerball luck has struck three times—once in Minnesota and twice in New Jersey—for the multistate lottery's latest massive jackpot. Sue Dooley, senior drawing manager production coordinator for the Multi-State Lottery Association, said late Wednesday night that three tickets matched all six numbers and would split the $448 million Powerball jackpot. "We had three grand prize winners," Dooley said. "One was in Minnesota and two were in New Jersey." She said it wasn't yet clear where the tickets had been sold or who the winners where. She said that information would come from the individual states' lottery officials. The numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 05, 25, 30, 58, 59 and Powerball 32.

Friend: Suspected Calif. abductor had crush on girl

LAKESIDE, Calif. (AP)—A man suspected of abducting a 16-year-old girl told her he had a crush on her and would date her if they were the same age, a friend of the girl said Wednesday as police searched for the man who is also wanted in the death of the girl's mother and possibly her 8-year-old brother. James Lee DiMaggio explained that he didn't want the girls to think he was weird in an effort to defend himself after noticing they exchanged glances, 15-year-old Marissa Chavez said. She said he spoke while driving them home from a high school gymnastics meet a couple months ago. Hannah Anderson asked Chavez to join her from then on whenever DiMaggio, 40, drove her to meets. DiMaggio was like an uncle to Hannah and 8-year-old Ethan. He was very close with their parents for years.

Pentagon may revise same-sex benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon is poised to extend health care, housing and other benefits to the same-sex spouses of military members by the end of August, but may reverse earlier plans to provide benefits to gay partners who are not married. According to a draft Defense Department memo obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, the department instead may provide up to 10 days of leave to military personnel in same-sex relationships so they can travel to states where they can marry legally. While no final decisions have been made, the memo from Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to top defense leaders would reverse an earlier plan that would allow the same-sex partners of military members to sign a declaration form in order to receive limited benefits, such as access to military stores and some health and welfare programs.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA / ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-RA-002-13**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Contractors are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona / Rota International Airport, CPA-RA-002-13",* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013,** to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Chair of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: July 23, 2013

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-TA-001-13**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Contractors are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Tinian International Airport, CPA-TA-001-13",* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2013,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Chair of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: July 25, 2013

Asia

6 face charges for PH bombing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police have filed murder complaints against six Muslim militants from a little-known al-Qaida-inspired group they blamed for a bombing last month that killed eight people in a crowded bar in the south, officials said Wednesday.

Witnesses identified Usman Hapids of Khilafa Islamiyah Mindanao as the man who left a mortar round concealed in a bag that went off in a bar at a shopping mall complex, killing eight people and wounding 46 in Cagayan de Oro city, said regional police chief Catalino Rodriguez.

Rodriguez told a Senate committee that was looking into the July 26 blast that the complaints filed against Hapids and his companions before government prosecutors were part of a legal offensive to help discourage other such bloody attacks.

Despite a security alarm set off by the explosion, a series of bombings rocked other southern regions this week, including in Cotabato city, where a powerful bomb rigged into a small van exploded on a busy avenue during rush hour Monday, killing eight people and wounding more than 30.

Three bombs went off in the region on Wednesday, including a roadside explosive that wounded seven soldiers on board a passing army truck in Maguindanao province, near Cotabato city, regional military commander Maj. Gen. Romeo Gapuz said.

Another bomb that exploded Wednesday caused no injuries but damaged a bridge in Maguindanao's Datu Piang town.

Officials said that there was no evidence the bombings were connected and that different motives may be behind them, including terrorism and personal feuds.

"It hurts to say, but the impression given is that it's so easy for one to get attacked in the Philippines," Sen. Grace Poe-Llamanzares told top police officials in her law and order committee inquiry on the Cagayan de Oro bombing. "We should prevent this from happening."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US institute: NKorea expanding nuclear plant

VIENNA (AP)—A U.S. institute tracking North Korea's nuclear weapons program says recent satellite photos show Pyongyang is doubling the size of its uranium enrichment plant, jibing with the country's announced plans to expand technology that can be used both to create energy and the core of nuclear weapons. The imagery comes from two sources, satellite companies Digital Globe and Astrium Geoinformation Services, and was seen by The Associated Press ahead of publication by the Institute for Science and International Security on Wednesday. In an accompanying note, ISIS said the photos of the Nyongbyon nuclear complex show construction under way to "effectively double" the size of the enrichment hall.

Official: Bomb kills 13-year-old girl in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A government official says a bomb planted outside a shopping center in southwestern Pakistan has killed a 13-year-old girl and wounded over 20 people. Shafqat Anwar says the blast occurred on Wednesday in Mastung district, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. Anwar is the assistant commissioner of Mastung. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Taliban wound Afghan female senator in ambush

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban ambushed a convoy of a female Afghan senator on Wednesday, seriously wounding her in the attack and killing her 8-year-old daughter and a bodyguard, officials said. Senator Rouh Gul Khirzad's husband, son and another daughter were also wounded in the attack in the Muqur district of Gazni province, according to Deputy Governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi. Ahmadi said the ambush took place on the main highway from Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar.

Church says Sri Lankan military killed protesters

WELIWERIYA, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's Roman Catholic church accused the military on Wednesday of shooting unarmed protesters and desecrating a church by entering it with weapons and attacking people who sought refuge during a violent crackdown on a demonstration last week. Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith made the accusations in a message read at the funeral service of an 18-year-old high school student who was among three people who were fatally shot by the military last Thursday. "We were shaken by this tragic loss of three innocent young lives ... as a result of acts of provocation and excessive use of force—assaulting unarmed people and shooting at them," Ranjith said.

NKorea lifts ban on joint factory park operations

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it is lifting a ban on operations at a jointly run factory park shuttered since Pyongyang pulled out its 53,000 workers in April amid tensions with South Korea, and the rivals agreed to meet next week for talks meant to restart the complex. The agreement revives hope for the resumption of production at the Kaesong complex, the last remaining symbol of inter-Korean cooperation from an earlier period of detente. The industrial park combined South Korean initiative, capital and technology with cheap North Korean labor. It was also a rare source of hard currency for North Korea, though the economically depressed country chafed at suggestions that it needed the money Kaesong generated.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **SIA ROOF DRAINAGE AND A/C SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)**.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2013**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Drainage System Improvement/Upgrade and Air-Conditioning Improvements to include the replacement of the damaged roof waterproofing with existing insulation board and diversion of the roof drain, and replacement of all PCU units and associated duct works serving all CPA (i.e. public area), all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in 330 calendar days. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages in the amount of $500/day if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the **CONFERENCE ROOM**, **Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 10:00 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow right after the pre-bid conference. Attendance is mandatory to all prospective bidders. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Board Chair/Contracting Officer

Date: July 26, 2013

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
August 1, 2013

Pursuant to Public Law 18-12, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), propose to issue Pension Obligation Bonds, the proceeds of which shall be used by the Government of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to fund the payment of the Commonwealth Government's obligation to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund. CDA is an autonomous agency that has the statutory authority under CNMI Public Law 4-49, to issue pension obligation bonds in the CNMI.

CDA is requesting proposals from qualified firms to serve as its bond underwriter for the proposed financing. Proposals shall be submitted to:

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149
Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp

no later than 4:00 p.m., September 3, 2013 Chamorro Standard Time (ChST). Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the CDA office, CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at telephone nos. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, ext. 311. The CDA reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Pedro I. Itibus
Chairman, Board of Directors

World

Obama cancels Putin summit amid Snowden tensions

AP

In this June 2013 photo released by Proyecto Arqueologico Holmul, archaeologist Anya Shetler cleans an inscription below a high-relief stucco sculpture recently discovered in the Mayan city of Holmul in the northern province of Peten, Guatemala.

Guatemala: 'Extraordinary' Mayan frieze found

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Archaeologists have found an "extraordinary" Mayan frieze richly decorated with images of deities and rulers and a long dedicatory inscription, the Guatemalan government said Wednesday.

The frieze was discovered by Guatemalan archaeologist Francisco Estrada-Belli, a professor at Tulane University's Anthropology Department, and his team in the northern Province of Peten, the government said in a joint statement with Estrada-Belli.

"This is an extraordinary finding that occurs only once in the life of an archaeologist," Estrada-Belli said.

The archaeologists were exploring a Mayan pyramid that dates to A.D. 600 in an area that is home to other classic ruin sites when they came upon the frieze.

"It's a great work of art that also gives us a lot of information on the role and significance of the building, which was the focus of our research," Estrada-Belli said.

The high-relief stucco sculpture, which measures 26 feet by 6 feet (8 meters by 2 meters), includes three main characters wearing rich ornaments of quetzal feathers and jade sitting on the heads of monsters.

The frieze, which was found in July, depicts the image of gods and godlike rulers and gives their names.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Already faltering, President Barack Obama's five-year effort to reboot U.S.-Russian relations finally crashed Wednesday, as the White House abruptly canceled his planned face-to-face summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

The effort to upgrade the relationship has fallen victim to the rapidly shrinking common ground between the former Cold War rivals, including extreme differences over the Syrian civil war, Russia's domestic crackdown on civil rights and—the final straw—the asylum granted to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

The U.S. and Russian foreign and defense ministers will sit down in Washington later this week, but Obama canceled his planned early September summit in Moscow with Putin because of what the White House called a lack of "recent progress" on a wide array of critical issues. Such steps are not taken lightly, and the decision will almost certainly herald a new frostiness in already chilly ties.

"We have informed the Russian government that we believe it would be more constructive to postpone the summit until we have more results from our shared agenda," the White House said in a statement, citing deep differences over missile defense, arms control, trade, global security and human rights. "Russia's disappointing decision to grant Edward Snowden temporary asylum was also a factor that we considered in assessing the current state of our bilateral relationship," it added.

The Kremlin responded quickly, voicing its own disappointment with the canceled summit and blaming it on Washington's inability to develop relations with Moscow on an "equal basis." Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, added that the decision was "clearly linked" to the Snowden case, a situation that he said wasn't of Russia's making.

While Snowden might have been the immediate catalyst for canceling the summit, the seeds of renewed U.S.-Russia discord were planted more than a year ago when Putin re-took the Russian presidency. On returning to power, he adopted a deeply nationalistic and more openly confrontational stance toward the United States than had his chosen successor Dmitry Medvedev, whose 2008-2012 tenure roughly overlapped Obama's first term in the White House.

Syrian troops kill more than 60 in desert ambush

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops ambushed a large group of rebels Wednesday trudging through what once was a secret route through a desert road northeast of Damascus, killing more than 60 fighters in a barrage of machine gun fire and leaving their bodies in the sand.

State television claimed those killed came from an al-Qaida-linked group that has joined the battle against President Bashar Assad, whose troops are trying to drive opposition forces from areas surrounding his seat of power in the capital.

There were conflicting reports on the attack in Adra, which lies on a supply route between Damascus and rebel-held areas to the east that is often the scene of heavy clashes between the two sides. The dawn attack dealt another heavy blow to opposition troops following a string of recent regime successes.

Syrian troops have been on the offensive in the past few months in an attempt to clear out Damascus suburbs held by opposition fighters.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-011

Saipan – Tinian Route Ferry Service Feasibility Study for Inter-Island Marine Public Transportation System, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude Hofschneider,, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to examine and prepare the economic feasibility of establishing and developing a publicly owned and privately operated ferry service in the form of a contract with the public entity for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Inter-Island Marine Public Transportation System between the Islands of Saipan and Tinian that expands both passenger and auto services as described in the Statement of Work of this RFP.

This project is funded in whole using Federal-aid Highway funds administered under the Department of Public Works. The project funding limit authorized by the grantor shall not exceed $170,000.00 unless additional funding has been identified by the CNMI Government.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** of the regulations.

The RFP Package including consultant qualification requirements, proposal submittal requirements, and Scope of Work will be made available on or after **August 2, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on September 3, 2013. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commerc ial Center Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time September 17, 2013.

Evaluation Criteria
Submitted proposals will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee assigned by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board, Office of the Governor based on the following four criterion with the following weights: (1) Relevant Experience and Qualifications of the firm (30%); (2) Proposed Approach (30%); (3) Schedule of Completion (20%) and Demonstrated Capacity and Ability to Perform the Work Required (20%). Proposers must submit with their proposal the required information for each criteria as further described in the Statement of Work. These ranking factors are summarized in the table below.

The total proposal submitted shall be no more than fifty (50) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Pre-Contract Requirements
Prior to being awarded a contract for professional consulting services, the firm or company must have submitted the following:

a) A valid CNMI Business License to perform such services;
b) Have a certification stating the firm has no pending federal or local court judgment(s) or cases against the firm in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
c) Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension.

The firm shall be responsible for obtaining proper licenses, permits, clearances, or authorizations for the proper execution of a contract within the CNMI as required by law.

For any contract or subcontract related to the study/analysis of any project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery.

Proposal Submittal
Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-011"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2013 to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2013, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 20, 2013 AND must be received no later than October 1, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
CPA-PAN-002-13
"SALE OF 2 UNITS 2006 USED MERCURY OUTBOARD ENGINES 250 HP/FOUR STROKE"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting individuals, boat owners or firm's interested in buying a pair of 2006 Mercury Outboard Engine/250HP/Four Stroke (used).

The engines will be sold as a pair only and may be inspected at the CPA Sea Port Office located at the Port of Saipan by contacting Ms. Maryann Q. Lizama or Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560.

The auction will take place on August 15, 2013 at the Sea Port Office, Port of Saipan beginning 2:00 PM Local Time until 4:00 PM. The bidder submitting the highest bid is required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at CPA Accounting Office at the Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building within five (5) working days from closing date of the auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check or money order payable to Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The pair of engines are sold "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS" and WITHOUT WARRANTY. The sold items must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from date of full payment. CPA will not be responsible for said items after the said specified time.

CPA maintains the right to set a minimum bid on the pair of engines. CPA further reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Public Auction Notice; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the auction.

CPA assumes no responsibilities for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids.

Inquiries may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela, at telephone number 237-6563.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Maryann Q. Lizama
Acting Executive Director

Off The Wall

Escape artist pulls off locked coffin skydive

SERENA, Ill. (AP)—A Wisconsin daredevil freed himself from shackles and a locked casket while plummeting to the earth at 130 miles per hour on Tuesday, eventually parachuting gently into a northern Illinois field.

Anthony Martin, 47, waved to the cameras and the crowd that turned out to watch his stunt after he landed at a farm in Serena, Ill., about 70 miles southwest of Chicago.

Martin said the escape was exhilarating but that he was disoriented because the plywood casket whipped wildly from side-to-side while he picked the locks, and he struggled to open the door.

"I didn't feel any force, but what I felt was a lot of jostling," he told The Associated Press. "It seemed to me like I had a glimpse of the ground for a second then it (the door) came back and I had to give it another push."

Martin, who began teaching himself to pick locks at age 6, somersaulted out of the box as he pushed his way to freedom.

"I didn't know where I was ... but I was hypnotized as I watched the box falling behind me," he said.

The mood on the plane was somber as it ascended to 14,000 feet. All the skydivers involved in the stunt carefully checked the others' equipment before Martin climbed into the box and was handcuffed to a belt around his waist and chained to the inside of the casket. A prison door lock for which no key exists was screwed into place to hold the door tight as two of the skydivers checked for sight of the proposed landing area from the open door of the plane, a Short SC.7 Skyvan.

When everyone was ready, a drogue attached to the top of the box was tossed from the door, sucking the casket from the aircraft. A drogue is a small parachute similar to those used to slow drag-racing cars and fighter jets. Two skydivers also held on to handles to further steady the casket as others shot video and stills of the escape-or-die jump.

The box rocked from side to side until around 6,500 feet when the Sheboygan, Wis., man emerged and tracked away from the casket before deploying his parachute.

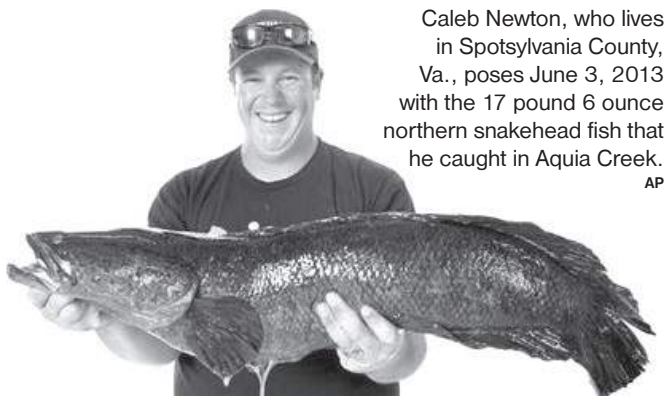
"It was one of the greatest feelings ever knowing that one of your best friends has again escaped death," said Rook Nelson, a national champion skydiver and owner of Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, Ill. He coached Martin in the weeks leading up to the jump.

Everyone involved in the stunt landed safely and no one was seriously hurt, although one of the skydivers trying to steady the box slammed into the door of the plane as they exited, giving him a fat lip and a scraped arm.

'Frankenfish' hooked in Virginia a world record

SPOTSYLVANIA, Va. (AP)—A Virginia man who caught a fish known as "Frankenfish" has set a world record.

Caleb Newton hooked the 17-pound, 6-ounce northern snakehead in a creek in northern Virginia during a fishing tournament June 1. The "Frankenfish" gets its nickname because of its appearance and adaptability. The invasive species native to Asia is able to breathe air and survive in very shallow waters or mud.



Caleb Newton, who lives in Spotsylvania County, Va., poses June 3, 2013 with the 17 pound 6 ounce northern snakehead fish that he caught in Aquia Creek.
AP

The Free Lance-Star reports the International Game Fish Association confirmed the record catch. It beat a snakehead caught in Japan in 2004 by 2 ounces.

Newton is a 27-year-old plumber in Spotsylvania County. He has said it only took him about a minute to get it into the boat, and the 3-foot long fish barely fit into his cooler.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man finds maggots on sandwich at Atlanta airport

ATLANTA (AP)—A restaurant says it has switched vendors after a customer found a cluster of maggots on his sandwich at Atlanta's airport. Weekly traveler Joel Woloshuk told WSB-TV Tuesday that he bought a sandwich from Café Intermezzo and realized the white specks on top of it were maggots—not parmesan—when they began moving. In a statement to WSB-TV, Café Intermezzo's president said the case was isolated and the problem could not have originated at the restaurant. He says the restaurant switched bread vendors and "not a single crumb" from the original bakery remains. Atlanta Department of Aviation officials say they're distributing ultraviolet lights to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport restaurants so they can better inspect food shipments. The Clayton County Board of Health says it found no citable violation at the location that it inspected.

Witnesses tackle man who runs from bank with cash

EVERETT, Wash. (AP)—An Everett, Wash., police spokesman says people noticed when a man approached a Wells Fargo bank branch with a shirt covering the lower part of his face and paint on the upper part. And the passers-by called police. Spokesman Aaron Snell says when the man ran out of the bank carrying a wicker basket of cash Tuesday afternoon, the witnesses gave chase. Snell says as the man crossed a street, he ran into the back of a truck and dropped the basket of cash. By that time, the group of about six pursuers caught up and tackled him, holding him until police arrived. The spokesman says the 30-year-old man was checked out at a hospital for minor injuries before being booked into jail for investigation of robbery.

Cardboard officer cuts crime at Mass. subway stop

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—The burly officer watching over the bike racks at a Boston-area transportation hub is a real stiff. As part of an effort to cut crime at the Alewife MBTA subway and bus station in Cambridge, transit police placed a cardboard cutout of a police officer in the bicycle cage. Hundreds of people use the racks daily. Deputy Chief Robert Lenehan says the fake cop, along with video cameras and a new lock, has cut bike thefts by 67 percent. It's also a money saver. Lenehan estimates it would cost $200,000 a year to have an officer watch over the cage full-time. The cutout is actually a picture of real MBTA Officer David Silen. Silen says the split second thieves take to glance at the cutout is enough to discourage them.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2013-CDA-04-RFP

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR CDA BUILDING IN OLEAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-JKPL/INTERNSHIP-157

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"LIBRARIAN INTERNSHIP FOR THE JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO JKPL ADMINISTRATION AT (670) 235-7318 OR (670) 287-7318 OR FAX TO (670) 235-7550 OR EMAIL TO *jkpl.admin@gmail.com*

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOHN OLIVER GONZALES
LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  a. Division Monthly Reports
  b. Update on CDBG Matters
  c. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
  d. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
    1. Loans for Review and Approval
  e. Garapan Properties for Sale/Lease – 003 D 16 and 003 D22
IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
  a. Rota Field Office
  b. Tinian Field Office
V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
  a. Amended FY 2014 Budget
  b. Fiscal Division Audit Reports
  c. Tottotville Settlement
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND AT PORT OF SAIPAN.
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites written sealed proposals from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration firms to provide full Preventive Maintenance Service of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The term of the preventive maintenance services shall be for two (2) years. CPA at its sole option may extend the services for an additional two (2) years.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning August 2, 2013 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Proposal Package includes the Scope of Services and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the RFP. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-011-13."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 29, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN HARBOR SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM
PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for design of seawater fire-fighting system for the Tinian Harbor, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These services will include an assessment of the existing conditions and design of a new seawater fire-fighting system to be installed at the Tinian Harbor including plans, specifications and estimates for the anticipated repair work and improvements.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with seaport projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for seaport projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2013**.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: August 1, 2013

Science & Technology

Samsung seeks smart watch trademarks in US, SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co. has applied for U.S. and South Korean trademarks for a watch that connects to the Internet in the latest sign that consumer technology companies see wearable devices as the future of their business.

Samsung described "Samsung Galaxy Gear" as a wearable digital electronic device in the form of a wristwatch, wrist band or bangle in its July 29 application with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A month earlier, it applied for a "Samsung Gear" trademark in South Korea.

The trademark applications did not show the shape of the products. But drawings from a Samsung design patent approved in May show a watch-like design with a flexible screen that curves around the wrist.

The U.S. trademark application said the device will be "capable of providing access to the Internet, for sending and receiving phone calls, electronic mails and messages" as well as "for keeping track of or managing personal information."

The trademark filings in the U.S. and in South Korea show that Samsung is deep in preparations for what tech industry experts expect will be a new generation of mobile technology that dramatically expands the utility of single-function objects such as watches and glasses. The South Korean consumer electronics giant was caught flatfooted by Apple's invention of the smartphone but through what turned out to be a legally risky strategy of imitation was able to capture a dominant share of the global smartphone market within a few years.

Apple Inc. applied June 3 for a trademark in Japan for "iWatch." Industry watchers have long speculated that Apple is working on a smart watch that uses a version of the operating system that powers the iPhone and iPad. The company has not confirmed those rumors but CEO Tim Cook has hinted it may be developing a wearable computing device.

Google Inc. is testing an early version of Internet-connected spectacles called Glass. It uses a small screen above the right eye that displays information and imagery retrieved from the Internet.

The South Korean patent office said the Gear trademark will not be approved this year as it takes seven to eight months to start reviewing applications due to a waiting list. Samsung applied for the South Korean trademark on June 21.

It was not clear if Samsung would use the "Samsung Gear" trademark for a Smart Watch. The trademark application covers 38 possible products including mobile telephones, bracelets, glasses and software interfaces that monitor human vital signs.

South Korea's patent office said in June that Samsung had patented watch designs in which more than three quarters of the device is covered by a flexible display that curves around the wrist. Illustrations showed `back' and `home' buttons at the bottom of the screen. Another illustration shows a rectangular screen with an edge that tapers toward the top.

Science Matters

Wanted: Robot, risky work

An international contest will test agile, human-shaped robots to see how well they can operate under remote control in a disaster-like setting.

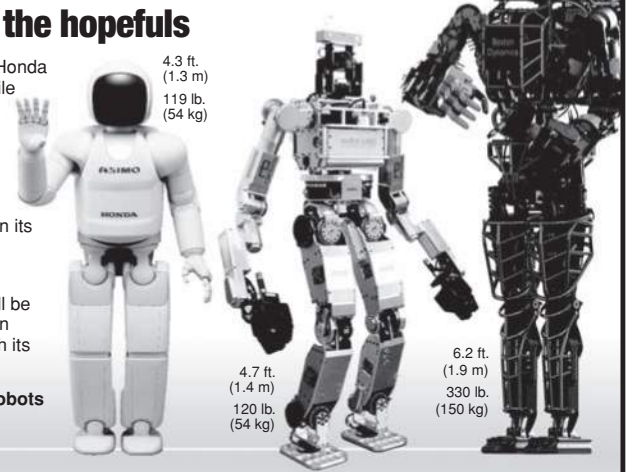
Some of the hopefuls

Asimo (left) by Honda can balance while running and climbing stairs

Hubo (center), an agile Korean robot, can walk on two legs or on its hands and feet

ATLAS (right), a U.S. product, will be entered by seven teams, each with its own software

More than 13 robots will compete



A grueling eight-part test

Tasks in the DARPA Robotics Challenge will simulate disaster and rescue work

Source: U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Honda, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Boston Dynamics

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas
© 2013 MCT

Travel guidebooks ride digital wave

By DEWAYNE BEVIL
ORLANDO SENTINEL

The world of travel guidebooks keeps spinning, although it must weather changes in format and distribution in order to spread the word about vacation destinations.

A trend toward electronic books and the demise of bookstores—including retail giant Borders—have been part of a sea change for travel books, said Julie Neal, who produces "The Complete Guide to Walt Disney World" with her husband, Mike, from their home in Celebration, Fla. They published their first print edition in 2007.

"We have depended on our pretty red book with the pretty photos on the shelf. It tempts people to pick it up and thumb through it," she said. "They see all the photos, and they buy it. We've sold 120,000 books that way."

She sees pluses in digital editions for readers and publishers. This fall, the Neals will introduce an e-book version of their travel guide, a genre that hasn't "exploded" in the electronic universe yet, she said. Before that, the couple will have smaller, more specialized editions, beginning with one devoted to New Fantasyland at Magic Kingdom.

A good e-guide should link to additional information about the location, include videos and ample videos and easily connect buyers to restaurants and other spots, Neal said. It's not merely a snapshot of the printed page, she said.

"You don't see good reference e-books that have that kind of capability. We're trying to create that," Neal said. Their comprehensive e-book contains more than 4,000 links, she said, and will be formatted to work on e-readers, tablets and smartphones.

"It's all right at their fingertips, literally. It's just a huge benefit to readers if the book is done right," she said.

An e-book can have many layers of information and the ability to filter it for specific data, she said.

"With just our print book, we weren't able to do the kind of depth that we always wanted to do. Just for economic reasons, we couldn't just add more and more pages," Neal said. "No one's going to spend $50 for a travel guide no matter how much good information is in there."

E-books are available through online retailers such as Amazon, Apple and Barnes & Noble. They determine the prices, Neal said, which can range from 99 cents to beyond the price for a print edition.

Travel-book purchases decreased from 10.91 million in 2010 to 7.97 million in 2012, according to Nielsen BookScan, a sales-tracking service. Despite that drop, there is optimism.

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMEND FUND, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 13-0111**
vs.	]	**SUMMONS**
NICOLAS MAREHAM NEKAI and BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG Defendants.	]	

TO : BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED, this 1st day of August, 2013.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT 2nd Publication

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMEND FUND, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 13-0111**
vs.	]	**SUMMONS**
NICOLAS MAREHAM NEKAI and BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG Defendants.	]	

TO : BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED, this 1st day of August, 2013.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT 1st Publication

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ezeth Smith Petitioner,	]	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0305**
vs	]	
Calvin Smith, Respondent,	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 10005 PMB 207 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 3rd day of July, 2013:

/s/Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, August 12, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (August 6, 2013)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM(S)
1. Supplemental Budget Request
2. Approval of Personnel Committee Report
3. Personnel Matters

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ FRANCES C. MAFNAS
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

August 8, 2013

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Life & Style

Work on new railway line digs up London history

LONDON (AP)—Jewelry, pieces of ships, medieval ice skates, centuries-old skulls—some incredible pieces of London's history aren't in museums, they're underground.

More often than not, they stay there, but work on a new railway line under the British capital is bringing centuries of that buried history to light.

The 118-kilometer (73-mile) Crossrail line is Britain's biggest construction project and the largest archaeological dig in London for decades. In the city's busy business core, archaeologists have struck pay dirt, uncovering everything from a chunk of Roman road to dozens of 2,000-year-old horseshoes, some golden 17th-century bling—and the bones of long-dead Londoners.

One afternoon this week, archaeologists were unearthing newly discovered bones in a pit beside Liverpool Street rail and subway station, while living city-dwellers scuttled by, oblivious, a few feet away. The remains belong to a few of the 20,000 people interred in a burial ground established in the 16th century.

"Everyone's been running around in Liverpool Street for years and not thinking that they've been walking around on bodies from one of the densest burial grounds in London," said Nick Elsden, a Museum of London archaeologist helping to oversee excavations that go along with the work on the Crossrail line.

The 2,000-year history of London goes deep—5 to 6 meters (16 to 20 feet) deep, the distance between today's street level and sidewalks in Roman times. Crossrail is providing archaeologists with a chance to dig down through those centuries—and even beyond, to prehistoric times.

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013 photo, a skull is revealed as an archaeologist digs on a site near London's Liverpool Street railway and tube station during the building of the new hi-speed rail line during a media visit in London.

"This site is a rare, perhaps unprecedented opportunity," Elsden said as he watched museum staff gently brush dirt from newly found bones and a skull in a hole that will soon house a maintenance shaft. "This is a major roadway outside one of London's busiest railway stations. You don't get to dig that up normally."

The 14.8 billion pound ($23 billion) railway, due to open in 2018, will run across London from west to east, with a central 21 kilometer (13 mile) section underground. That has meant tunneling beneath some of the city's oldest, most densely populated sections.

Alongside tunneling work—advancing by 100 meters (330 feet) a week and due to be finished next year—more than 100 archaeologists have been involved in excavations at 40 sites over the past four years.

They've found everything from reindeer, bison and mammoth bones dating back 68,000 years to the remains of a moated Tudor manor house, medieval ice skates, an 800-year old piece of a ship and the foundations of an 18th-century shipyard.

Earlier this year, the dig unearthed skeletons belonging to victims of the Black Death, the plague that wiped out half of London's population in 1348.

The latest discoveries include pieces of flint, some shaped into tiny blades, from a 9,000-year-old tool-making factory beside the Thames in what is now southeast London. It's evidence the area was being resettled after the last Ice Age by nomadic hunter-gatherers.

At Liverpool Street, recent finds include a 17th-century Venetian gold coin with a loop that suggests it was an early sequin, worn as decoration on the clothes of a wealthy person who probably lost it. It was found in a rubbish deposit.

Elsden and his team are especially excited to have uncovered the remains of a Roman road, studded with 2,000-year-old horseshoes—more precisely equine sandals, made of metal and fastened to the hooves with leather straps.

So many have been found that researchers suspect this must then, as now, have been a busy transit area, with horses bringing produce from the countryside to residents of what was then known as Londiniun.

"Roman horseshoes, stuck in a rut of the Roman road—you've got this unique little snapshot," Elsden said. "You can see a Roman pulling his cart across the bridge. That's a rare little glimpse into ordinary Roman life."

Some of the archaeologists' most delicate work involves remains from the Bedlam burial ground, established in the 16th century underneath what is now Liverpool Street as the city's medieval church graveyards filled up.

Thousands of Londoners were buried there over 150 years, from paupers to religious nonconformists to patients at the adjacent Bedlam Hospital, the world's first psychiatric asylum. Its name, a corruption of Bethlehem, became a synonym for chaos.

Jay Carver, Crossrail's lead archaeologist, says the project will mean disinterring the remains of about 4,000 people.

Workers will treat the remains with delicacy and respect, practices not always followed in the past.

The recently discovered Roman road is made of rammed earth, clay, wood and—surprisingly—human bones, washed by a river from a nearby cemetery and incorporated into the building material.

"We tend to think in the past they were superstitious about bodies, but no," Elsden said. "Bits of bodies are washing around out of cemeteries—they're not that worried about it."

Centuries later, gravestones from the Bedlam cemetery were used as foundations of later buildings, and the soil has yielded pieces of bone, antler, tortoiseshell and ivory—leftovers from local craft workshops dumped over the cemetery wall in the 17th century.

The newly excavated human remains will be studied for clues to diet and disease before being reinterred elsewhere.

Most of them will, of necessity, be reburied anonymously. But Carver holds out hope that research may be able to identify some individuals. The Bedlam graveyard is known to contain the remains of several prominent people, including Robert Lockyer, a member of an egalitarian 17th-century political movement known as the Levelers.

Lockyer was executed by firing squad at St. Paul's Cathedral after leading an army mutiny in 1649 before being buried at Bedlam.

"If you find someone who's been executed with a musket, that's going to leave some kind of damage," Carver said. "It would be quite exciting if we could identify someone in that way."

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PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS [CC] (PG) Fri.725 PM
Sat. - Sun.(125 PM) 725 PM
Mon.725 PM

ELYSIUM [CC] (R)
Fri.(435 PM) 730 PM 1010 PM
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PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(425 PM) 1020 PM
Sun. - Mon.(425 PM)

PLANES [CC] (PG) Fri.710 PM
Sat. - Sun.(225 PM) 710 PM
Mon.710 PM

PLANES 3D [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(445 PM) 920 PM
Sun. - Mon.(445 PM)

WE'RE THE MILLERS [CC] (R)
Fri.(405 PM) 705 PM 1005 PM
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2 GUNS [CC] (R)
Fri.(450 PM) 745 PM 1030 PM
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SMURFS 2 [CC] (PG) Fri.700 PM
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Mon.700 PM

SMURFS 2 3D [CC] (PG)
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Sun. - Mon.(430 PM)

THE WOLVERINE [CC] (PG-13)
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Mon.715 PM

THE WOLVERINE 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Fri. - Sat.(415 PM) 1015 PM
Sun. - Mon.(415 PM)

Times For 08/09 - 08/13 ©2013 www.REGmovies.com

Colbert's song of the summer: not Daft Punk

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert's "song of the summer" special was either a real-life corporate tiff over Daft Punk or the most elaborately-planned—and funniest—corporate cross-promotions in memory.

On his Comedy Central show Tuesday, Colbert said he had Daft Punk booked to perform the hit "Get Lucky" that night. But he said that on the day before, fellow Viacom Inc., network MTV had pulled rank, claiming the French dance duo had agreed to perform at the Video Music Awards on Aug. 25 and make the show its exclusive U.S. TV appearance.

Colbert read a supposed email from MTV chief Van Toffler that said "my peeps" are "feeling funky on this one."

"I don't care what MTV allows," Colbert said. "My audience gets the song of the summer if they want it and I don't even need Daft Punk to choose my show over the VMAs to get it. This is Colbchella, God damn it, and it is time to dance!"

"Get Lucky" comes over the loudspeakers and Colbert launches into what becomes an elaborate dance video that includes Hugh Laurie, Jeff Bridges, Bryan Cranston, Henry Kissinger, Matt Damon and break-in appearances on "America's Got Talent," Jimmy Fallon's "Late Night" and "The Charlie Rose Show."

After a commercial break, Robin Thicke comes down from the audience to perform his own summer hit, "Blurred Lines."

Colbert had promoted the supposed Daft Punk appearance. On Friday, he had tweeted: "This Tuesday 8/6, don't miss Stephen Colbchella `013: The Song of the Summer of the Century with special guest Daft Punk." The music website Pitchfork said Friday that Colbert had told his studio audience on July 25 about Daft Punk's appearance. Pitchfork said it had confirmed the booking, although it didn't cite a source.

But plainly, the "Get Lucky" video wasn't something pulled together in a day to air instead of a Daft Punk performance. Fallon's show had posted video of Colbert's surprise entrance on the NBC show's July 29 taping, where he briefly danced to "Get Lucky" and left the stage without saying why.

"I don't know what just happened," Fallon said. "Song of the summer, man."

The "appearance" on "America's Got Talent" was taped last Wednesday just before the show's live airing from Radio City Music Hall. Producers agreed to the walk-on because it was good promotion, even though they weren't told specifically how it was going to be used, said an executive with the show who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to talk about the plans.

Could "The Colbert Report" have planned to use the video in conjunction with a Daft Punk performance? Possibly, although Daft Punk would have had to agree to make one of its rare television appearances on a show where it was likely to be upstaged by a video to its own song.

Usher's ex-wife granted emergency custody hearing

ATLANTA (AP)—A judge has scheduled an emergency custody hearing requested by Usher's ex-wife after one of the pair's sons got stuck in a pool drain at the singer's Atlanta home.

A lawyer for Tameka Foster Raymond filed the request in Fulton County Superior Court on Tuesday and Judge John J. Goger approved it the same day, scheduling a hearing for Friday. The court filing says the boy "suffered a near-death accident" while left unsupervised in a pool at the Grammy winner's home on Monday.

Tameka Raymond is seeking temporary primary custody of the former couple's two children, as well as temporary final decision-making authority regarding their education, health care, religion and extracurricular activities.

A lawyer who has previously represented Usher in the custody dispute did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment, and her office said she was scheduled to be in court all week.

Atlanta police have said 5-year-old Usher Raymond V fell to the bottom of the pool and became stuck in the drain on Monday.

A housekeeper tried unsuccessfully to free him. A contractor doing work at the home pulled the boy from the pool and performed CPR. The boy was "conscious, alert and breathing" when emergency medical workers arrived, police said. The boy was in the intensive-care unit of a hospital being treated for his injuries, Tameka Raymond's court filing says.

In a statement Wednesday night, Usher said he's "blessed and fortunate" that his son is recovering.

"I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of prayers, love and support for my family's well-being. I would like to thank my Aunt Rena as well as the doctors and nurses who are working with us around the clock," he said in a statement issued through a spokeswoman.

Kutcher: Better at keeping personal life private

NEW YORK (AP)—Ashton Kutcher admires the way Steve Jobs kept his personal life private, and wishes he could do the same.

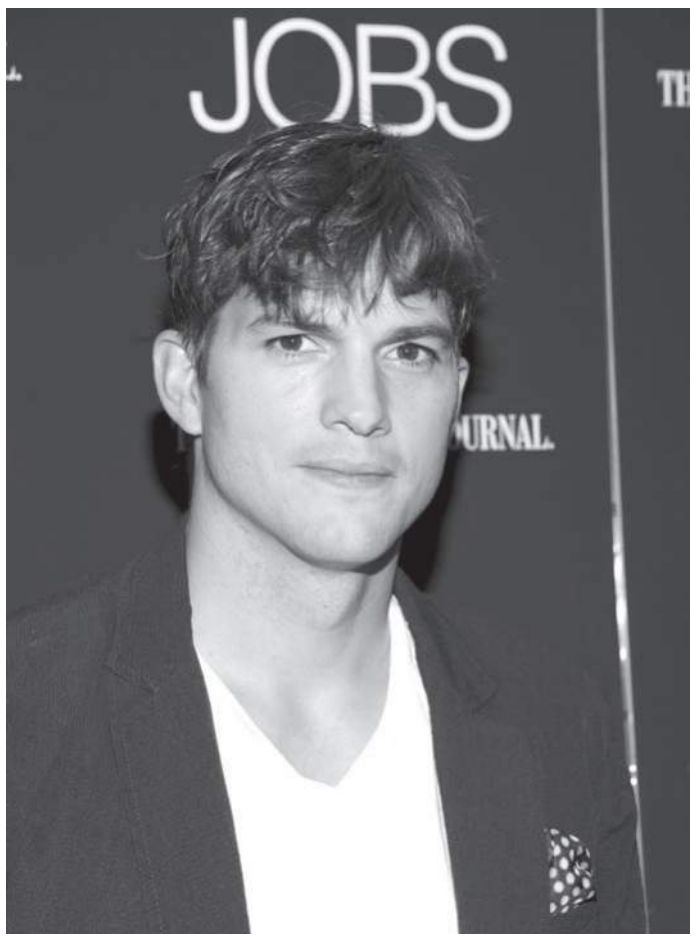
"He was better at it than I am," the 35-year old actor says. "This business has a propensity to force you to be more public than you probably want to be."

Kutcher has seen his share of tabloid headlines after his very public breakup with actress Demi Moore and his current relationship with Mila Kunis.

But the actor feels he's getting better at it.

"I think I've learned how to restrict that public image and over the years I'm starting to understand the value of privacy," he says.

Kutcher made the comments at the New York premiere of his new film, "Jobs," where he plays Apple Computer co-founder Steve Jobs.



AP

Actor Ashton Kutcher attends a special screening of "JOBS" hosted by The Wall Street Journal at the Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013, in New York.

Fashion blogger sues BET over attire clash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A transgendered style correspondent who says BET made him tone down his feminine look on the network's pre-awards show last month has filed a lawsuit against the network's parent company for discrimination, wrongful termination and emotional distress.

B. Scott, who was born Brandon Sessoms, is seeking $2.5 million in damages from BET parent company Viacom after he said he was told to change his outfit at last month's BET Awards to a more conservative suit, tie his long hair back in a ponytail and not wear heels. The fashion blogger said that even after he changed, he was replaced by another correspondent.

"Let's be clear—I'm suing BET and Viacom for a true public apology and to be fairly remunerated for the time lost, humiliation and emotional distress this entire situation has put me through," he said in a statement.

BET called the incident a "misunderstanding" and said it regretted any "unintentional offense" in a statement last month.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in in Los Angeles Superior Court.

LeAnn Rimes, Eddie Cibrian get VH1 series

AP

This April 1, 2012 file photo shows country singer LeAnn Rimes, right, and her husband Eddie Cibrian at the 47th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

NEW YORK (AP)—Eddie Cibrian and LeAnn Rimes already get a lot of tabloid attention.

Now the 40-year-old actor and his singer-actress wife are parlaying their notoriety into a new VH1 series tentatively titled, "LeAnn & Eddie."

The six-episode series is scheduled to debut later this year or in early 2014.

A statement released Wednesday said the show will "bring the truth and make fun of all the gossip" about the couple, but doesn't say specifically whether it will be scripted or a reality series.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, the 30-year-old Rimes said she and Cibrian were interested in doing "a show based in reality. ... A scripted show based around our lives." She said they had been approached numerous times to do an actual reality series, but "that kind of typical model doesn't work for us."

The couple wed in 2011. They met while filming the Lifetime movie "Northern Lights." Cibrian's ex-wife, Brandi Glanville, is a cast member on "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills."

Actors say Latinos deserve award-worthy roles

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Oscar-winning actress Rita Moreno says she has a ready answer for those who ask why more Latinos fail to receive Hollywood honors.

It's because Hispanic actors aren't cast in the kind of roles that gather big nominations and awards, Moreno said Wednesday.

Latinos are, in her words, "terrific performers," said Moreno, who received a best supporting actress Oscar for 1961's "West Side Story."

Bratt

Moreno, whose Spanish-language version of her autobiography is newly published, spoke during a Television Critics Association panel on the documentary "Latino Americans."

She's featured in it, along with other prominent Hispanic Americans. The three-part PBS film airs in September.

Benjamin Bratt, the documentary's narrator, said Latino representation on the screen is "seriously wanting."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

D'Angelo cancels festival appearance over illness

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—D'Angelo has added the Outside Lands music festival to his list of cancellations due to an unspecified medical emergency. The soul singer had been forced to cancel U.S. dates last week due to illness and also will miss shows in Chicago and San Diego this week. Chic, featuring Nile Rodgers, will step into D'Angelo's slot Friday night at Outside Lands where he was supposed to close the Sutro Stage. The nature of D'Angelo's illness was unclear. A publicist didn't immediately respond to an email inquiry. The singer, whose real name is Michael Archer, has been slowly returning to public performances over the last year after more than a decade away from the spotlight and is expected to soon release his first album since 2000.

George Saunders turns viral grad speech into book

NEW YORK (AP) — Best-selling author George Saunders is turning his U.S. graduation speech that went viral into a book. "Congratulations, by the Way," an expanded version of his commencement speech to the Syracuse University class of 2013, is scheduled for publication by Random House in 2014. The speech is a meditation on the importance of kindness. He says what he regrets in life are "failures of kindness" and "as a goal in life, you could do worse than: Try to be kinder." Text of the speech quickly spread on social networks and blogs. Saunders' most recent collection of short stories, "Tenth of December," was published by Random House this year.

Flowers meant to ease grief cause only heartache instead

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law died two weeks ago. The services were beautiful. Many people sent flowers, but one arrangement—a bouquet of white flowers—arrived anonymously. I didn't think much about it, just that someone wanted to express sympathy. Now my mother-in-law has become frantic with concern about the flowers. She sobs over not knowing who sent them and—we think—suspects they came from an old or not-so-old flame.

My in-laws were married for more than 50 years, and it is heartbreaking to see her compound her grief with these thoughts. We have suggested various reasons that someone might have sent the flowers anonymously, but she refuses to accept them.

Is sending flowers this way unusual? Or are there good reasons to do it? For the record, is it even good manners to send flowers to a funeral anonymously? Or is my mother-in-law's reaction normal?

GRIEVING IN GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

DEAR GRIEVING: Your mother-in-law is grieving. She is fragile right now, and possibly not thinking straight. A card may have been sent with the bouquet that was somehow lost in transit.

That she was married to her husband for 50 years and now suspects he was unfaithful because of a bouquet of flowers at the man's funeral is a sad reflection on their marriage. She should discuss this with her spiritual adviser, if she has one, or a grief therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I am in my early 30s and have been married for five years. My husband and I decided to have a baby, and five months ago I found out I was pregnant. When I told my mom the great news, she wasn't happy to hear it. She doesn't care. All she cares about is how "fat" I'm going to get.

My mother never wants to talk about anything baby-related. If I complain about an ache or pain, she quickly says, "It's because you're fat!" The last time I went to the OB/GYN for a checkup, Mom didn't even ask if everything was OK. All she said was, "How much weight have you gained?"

It hurts me so much that she treats me and her future grandchild this way. I almost feel like having this baby was a mistake. Please help me. I don't know what to do anymore.

ALMOST IN TEARS IN OHIO

DEAR ALMOST IN TEARS: Stop depending so much on your mother's approval and you'll have a happier pregnancy. The person you should talk to about your weight is your OB/GYN. If your weight is such that it might affect your health or your baby's, you need to know it ASAP. Your doctor can refer you to a nutritionist if you need guidance about your diet.

Your relationship with your mother doesn't appear to be particularly positive. As you grow closer to motherhood, talk more with your girlfriends, talk more to your husband and less to your mother.

DEAR ABBY: I don't go to nightclubs often, so I'm curious as to what the protocol is for this. Sometimes, in the ladies' room, there is a woman there with toiletries, gum, cosmetics, etc. Before you can get your own, she puts soap in your hand and gives you a paper towel. There is a bowl on the counter for people to leave tips. The club manager says she isn't an employee of the club, but simply looking to make tips. I understand this.

My question: Am I supposed to tip her just once for the evening, or each time I use the ladies' room?

INQUISITIVE CLUBBER IN FLORIDA

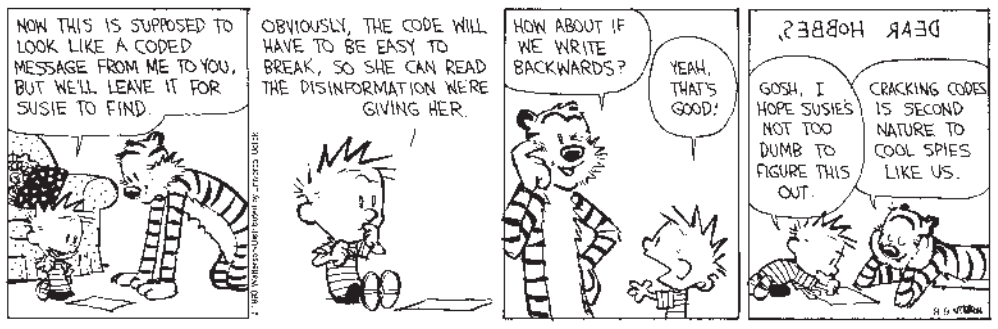
DEAR CLUBBER: Tip the attendant each time you use the bathroom and she hands you the soap and towel—the standard rate is 50 cents to a dollar. However, if you tip the person generously the first time, you shouldn't feel obligated to do it again if you need to return.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


NOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE A CODED MESSAGE FROM ME TO YOU, BUT WE'LL LEAVE IT FOR SUSIE TO FIND.
OBVIOUSLY, THE CODE WILL HAVE TO BE EASY TO BREAK, SO SHE CAN READ THE DISINFORMATION WE'RE GIVING HER.
HOW ABOUT IF WE WRITE BACKWARDS?
YEAH, THAT'S GOOD!
DEAR HOBBES?
GOSH, I HOPE SUSIE'S NOT TOO DUMB TO FIGURE THIS OUT.
CRACKING CODES IS SECOND NATURE TO COOL SPIES LIKE US.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE HEARD YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS MAKING YOU FEEL OLD.
BUT WE WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE LEAST MATURE PERSON WE KNOW.
THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANYONE'S EVER SAID TO ME!
DOES EVERYBODY GET WEIRD WHEN THEY GROW UP?
OH. A HUNDRED PERCENT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WAS THINKING MAYBE WE SHOULD START SETTING MONEY ASIDE FOR A RAINY DAY, BUT THEN I REMEMBERED WE USUALLY DON'T GO ANY-WHERE WHEN IT RAINS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Frisbees, e.g.
6 Citric beverage
9 Brace insert
12 Hawkeye
13 Automaton, for short
14 Commotion
15 Tropical fruit used in jelly
16 Mopped
18 "9 to 5" singer
20 Start
21 Burst
23 Blunder
24 Count
25 Still unpaid
27 Dogpatch lad
29 Absolutely
31 Texas city
35 Halloween option
37 Take to the pool
38 Bewildered
41 Sleuth
43 Matterhorn or Jungfrau
44 Charged particles
45 Up-to-date
47 Went after a fly
49 Islanders' porch
52 Floral accessory
53 Moreover
54 2, 4, 6, etc.
55 Right angle
56 Clear the tables
57 Make less bright

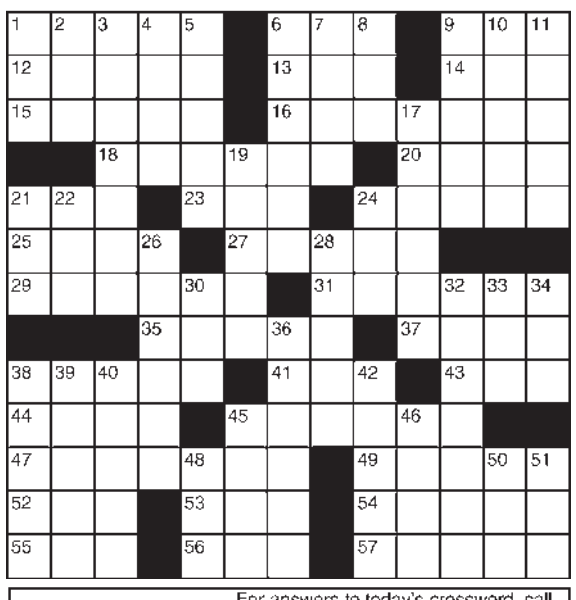
DOWN

1 Use a shovel
2 Chit
3 Exchanged
4 Vena —
5 Trap
6 Soak up
7 This way
8 Greek vowel
9 Tower of confusion
10 Perfect
11 Hot rum drink
17 Plays at full volume
19 Profession
21 Luau side dish
22 Possess
24 Actor Danson
26 Hate
28 Famous
30 Mound stat
32 Dallied
33 Part of RSVP
34 Electrical meas.
36 Battling
38 Supermarket section
39 Beachgoer's item
40 One in a mobile home?
42 Star
45 Carte
46 Carry on
48 Bill
50 Singer DiFranco
51 Doctrine

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	O	F	T	■	N	A	P	■	D	R	A	T
A	R	E	A	■	O	R	O	■	I	O	T	A
M	E	A	T	■	T	E	E	■	A	T	O	P
P	O	R	T	I	A	■	M	A	D	A	M	E
■	■	■	O	F	T	■	■	G	E	T	■	■
A	M	M	O	■	I	N	C	O	M	I	N	G
L	O	U	■	■	O	N	I	■	■	O	R	A
I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	■	S	N	A	P
■	■	■	A	L	A	■	■	A	W	L	■	■
P	A	T	I	N	A	■	T	E	A	S	E	R
A	C	I	D	■	L	E	I	■	C	A	P	E
S	H	O	E	■	P	R	O	■	K	N	E	E
S	E	N	D	■	S	A	N	■	S	E	E	K

Yesterday's answer 8-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Kendrick, 28; Tyson Gay, 31; Hoda Kotb, 49; Sam Elliot, 69.

Happy Birthday: Looking back will help you move forward. Evaluate your current position and what you have enjoyed doing the most throughout life. This will lead you down a path that entails some change, but most of all satisfaction and success once you start the process. Call in favors and forge ahead. Relocation or educational pursuits may be necessary. Your numbers are 5, 11, 17, 21, 30, 39, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Follow a unique path that will motivate and inspire you. Consider how you can use your skills and get the highest return for what you can do. Your ideas are spot-on, but you mustn't let your personal life interfere with your professional plans. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pursue your creative interests. Your hard work will pay off, and compliments will boost your confidence. Getting involved in community or neighborhood events will broaden your perspective as well as enhance your friendships. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Tie up loose ends that pertain to your vocational life. Once you have put work behind you, it will be much easier to enjoy family, friends and personal activities. Home-improvement projects will go well and keep you out of trouble. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your strength and strong family values will keep you moving in the right direction personally and professionally. Someone may try to push you off course, but by showing love, respect and kindness you will end up getting your way. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Rethink your spending habits, and you'll figure out a way to cut your overhead. Greater discipline at home will encourage a tight budget without forgoing the fundamentals that are important to you. A change of location will do you good. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotions will be close to the surface. Express your feelings, and you'll find out exactly where you stand. Love and romance are on the rise, and engaging in activities that are conducive to enhancing important relationships should be on your agenda. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Sit tight and avoid making any rash decision or moves. If you take a wait-and-see attitude, you will gain self-respect. Use your time wisely by researching your options. Having a plan will increase your confidence. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Consider what you want to add to your resume. Finding a way to incorporate things you like to do into a job that interests you will pay off. Romance is on the rise, and plans for an engaging evening should be made. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Face whatever questions you are asked head-on. Clear the air before rumors are started or someone complains. Once you have a clear conscience, you will be able to enjoy what lies ahead. A contract will influence your future. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Personal contracts or joint assets should be amended to fit the changing economic climate. A commitment will bring positive changes to the way you live. Personal changes at home will brighten your day and encourage greater interaction with the ones you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of work-related matters intelligently. Being practical and taking care of your interests should be your first priorities. Don't allow a partnership to come between you and your common sense. Don't hesitate when change is required. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make special plans with someone you love to spend time with. Exploring what you share in common with someone or expanding on plans for the future will enhance your relationship. People from your past are likely to pop back into your life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, outgoing and conscientious. You are dedicated and productive. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			1			2	
4								6
	6		9		5		3	
		4				3		
3				7				9
		2				6		
	3		4		8		1	
5								3
	8			6			4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	7	3	8	4	1	2	5
1	4	3	2	9	5	6	8	7
2	8	5	1	6	7	9	3	4
4	7	6	9	1	8	2	5	3
3	5	1	7	4	2	8	9	6
8	2	9	6	5	3	7	4	1
7	6	4	5	2	9	3	1	8
9	1	8	4	3	6	5	7	2
5	3	2	8	7	1	4	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GYM BAGS Solution: 9 letters

S	R	D	N	E	E	R	G	Y	M	N	A	S	T	S
A	E	A	Z	I	P	P	E	R	S	E	G	H	E	U
S	T	I	T	C	H	D	A	S	D	N	E	A	A	P
E	S	H	R	T	L	I	R	P	I	A	N	N	M	P
M	E	T	L	O	I	U	I	R	V	G	O	D	S	L
B	Y	G	H	E	S	R	B	Y	I	G	N	L	N	E
R	L	N	R	A	T	S	E	S	M	E	S	E	L	W
O	O	E	R	A	N	E	E	E	H	O	P	S	O	O
I	P	R	B	O	L	D	N	C	K	O	O	R	G	T
D	R	T	E	B	I	E	S	N	C	A	R	R	O	U
E	I	S	A	L	E	S	F	K	I	A	T	T	G	O
R	C	S	O	U	Y	U	E	U	N	S	R	N	S	K
E	E	S	S	E	N	T	I	A	L	S	O	R	T	R
D	U	R	A	B	L	E	S	N	O	L	Y	N	Y	O
C	I	R	B	A	F	O	O	R	P	R	E	T	A	W

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Accessories, Athlete, Attire, Blue, Bold, Bring, Carry, Club, Design, Durable, Embroidered, Essentials, Fabric, Full, Gear, Green, Gymnast, Handles, Hands, Heavy, Hold, Large, Load, Logo, Long, Narrow, Nylon, Open, Pocket, Polyester, Price, Roomy, Sale, Shorts, Solid, Sort, Sport, Stitch, Strength, Style, Supple, Take, Teams, Tennis, Towel, Trip, Used, Waterproof, Workout, Zippers

Yesterday's Answer: Don't Be Cruel

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 is "Celebrities Vol. 3." To purchase, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universalucick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Building Maintenance. Minimum salary. With 3 years experience. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a SAFE 2-3 bedroom house. Preferably with ocean view. Call Alex at 989-2502

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

www.saipantribune.com

YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bld. 1 Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

1-Teppenyaki Cook
Minimum 5 years work related experience; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays. Apply at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Position closes 5pm 8/16/13.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(8) **Mason** – 5 years experience - $5.55/hr
Interested applicants must contact and submit resume to
RPCF, INC.
P.O. Box 504549 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel #: 234-9127 • Email - brian@pticom.com

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

JOSEPH C. REYES
dba: Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital
Job Vacancy Announcement

Chief Bartender (2)
Qualifications:
- High School graduate or equivalent with minimum of at least 5 years experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails
- Must know how to give instructions and supervision to his assistants
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills required
- Full time with flexible working hours

Interested applicants may submit resume to Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital's Office in Garapan.
Phone: 233-5367

APARTMENT FOR RENT
• 3 Bedroom with 2 Bathrooms
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Located in Chalan Kanoa next to the beach - Ocean view.
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Sam's Sons Inc.
Dba: Sprockets & Rockets
is in need of
Bookkeeper (Part time)
Will work 24 hours a week with flexible schedule. Interested applicant please forward resume to ming@pacifictactitcalsupply.com not later than Tuesday, August 13, 2013.

Job Vacancy Announcement
ARCHITECT / INTERN ARCHITECT
ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMAN
3-5 YEARS CADD EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
KNOWLEDGE OF REVIT A PLUS
US CITIZEN OR GREEN CARD HOLDER ONLY
SEND RESUME / CV TO TRMA ARCHITECTS
E-mail: trma.cnmi@gmail.com
Fax: 233-3082

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit their application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. Building, Lower Base, by August 23rd, 2013. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Operations Manager (01)

Job Duties: Responsible for supervision, training, and management of Operations Department including but not limited to: attendance, company policy & procedure compliance, service & performance training, etc. Ensures highest standard of performance from the team. Follow up and deal with all related administration issues. Responsible for organizing, planning and conducting all kinds of expeditions, travel, and tours for groups and individuals by working closely with other department managers. Ensures all travel arrangements run according to plan and that accommodation, meals and service are satisfactory. Ensures that the tour is running smoothly for individual members of the group. Able to make and coach Operation Coordinators in designing flexible tour packages to meet the needs of different clients. Maintain effective working relationships with staff, clients, and visitors. Identify customer needs and ensure their continued business with the Company. Proactive in creating a sales culture through our people. Works closely with GM & other Department managers to maximize occupancy of rooms and meetings, rates, yield and average spends by implementing appropriate training and communication systems, also to evaluate sales performance and product on a regular basis in order to recognize challenges for the future. Actively seeks all sales and revenue opportunities both internal and external to increase the profile of company. Should be flexible and adaptable according to business/project adjustment. Responsible for required reports and maintaining records. An efficient problem solver. Report to GM/VP when assistance or support is needed. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: High school diploma and College Majors in Tourism and Travel Services Management is preferred. Previous 3-5 years work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required. Has high attention to details, is creative, and able to work with a team. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good negotiation and communication skills. Able to solve problems and has good public relations skills. Able to deal with emergencies. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Operations Clerk (02)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Salary will be paid and positions will be filled commensurate with qualification, work experience and ability to perform. Worksite locations are on Saipan and at all Century Tours, Inc. offices. Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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Only $10 Student Laptop
Restore OS Call for more info.
FREE LCD REPLACEMENT
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Transpacific Corporation
P.O. Box 500756, Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
Building Maintenance Repairer
Duties include minor plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting and other related work as assigned. 5 years work experience.
PLEASE SEND RESUME TO OUR OFFICE.

Newly Renovated HOUSE FOR RENT
(Tottottville House No. 9, available August 1st) 4-BR Concrete, 2Bath, Carport, Semi-furnished, A/C, All New-Fridge, Gas stove w/Gas tank, Water Heater, 2-1000 gal water tank, Lavish ceramic tiles. Fresh interior/exterior paint and more. Must see to appreciate. Serious inquiries only. Call 285-3663, email seewes@gmail.com after July 28, 2013.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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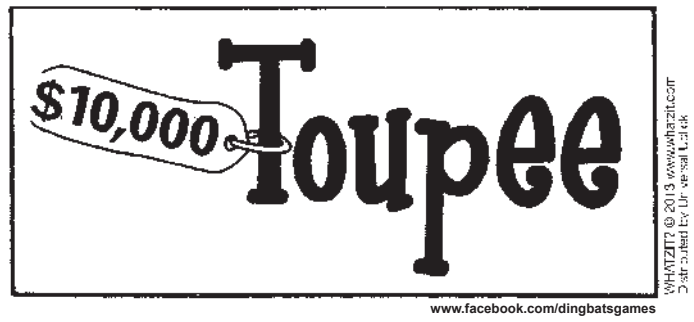
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Tigers outlast Indians 6-5 in 14 innings

CLEVELAND (AP)—Prince Fielder hit a two-run double in the 14th inning as the Detroit Tigers won their 11th straight, 6-5 on Wednesday night over the Cleveland Indians, who fell six games out of first place in the AL Central and maybe left rookie Danny Salazar in for one too many pitches.

After the Tigers put two on against Bryan Shaw (2-3), Fielder lined his double off Marc Rzepczynski into the gap as the Tigers beat the Indians for the 11th time in 12 games and improved to 12-3 against their nearest division rival.

Jeremy Bonderman (2-3) pitched three innings in his first appearance for the Tigers since Oct. 1, 2010. Joaquin Benoit gave up a two-out RBI double to Michael Bourn and wild pitch before striking out Drew Stubbs with the tying run at third for his 14th save.

AP

Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera watches his two-run home run off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Danny Salazar in the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013, in Cleveland.

White Sox 6, Yankees 5, 12 innings.

In Chicago, Alejandro De Aza's game-winning triple with two outs rallied the Chicago White Sox to a 6-5 win over the New York Yankees, hours after New York's Alex Rodriguez appealed his suspension.

Rodriguez officially dug in for his fight two days after being hit with a 211-game punishment following MLB's investigation into Biogenesis of America, a defunct Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

Then, the Yankees fell for the 14th time in 20 games after Mariano Rivera blew the lead in the ninth and Robinson Cano hit a go-ahead homer in the 12th.

Red Sox 7, Astros 5

In Houston, Stephen Drew hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth to rally the Red Sox to a victory over the Astros.

David Ortiz had four hits and Jonny Gomes also hit a home run for the Red Sox, who have won seven of their last nine games.

Robbie Grossman had two hits, including a homer, and Jason Castro added two hits for the Astros, who have dropped six of seven and are a major league-worst 37-76.

Mariners 9, Blue Jays 7

In Seattle, Humberto Quintero's two-run homer highlighted a six-run fifth inning, and the Mariners rallied for a victory over Toronto to spoil the return of Blue Jays lefthander J.A. Happ.

Happ made his first start since May 7, when he suffered a skull fracture and a sprained right knee after being struck behind the left ear by a line drive from Tampa Bay's Desmond Jennings. Happ left the field on a stretcher, spent the night in the hospital and had three months of rehabilitation, primarily for the knee.

Royals 5, Twins 2

In Kansas City, Mo., the Kansas City bullpen picked up starter Danny Duffy when he labored in his return from Tommy John surgery, keeping the Twins guessing and sending the Royals to a victory and series win.

Duffy struck out seven in 3 2-3 innings in his first outing since May 2012, but needed 93 pitches to get that far. He left trailing 2-1 on another humid night at Kauffman Stadium.

Rangers 10, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Adrian Beltre had a homer, three RBIs and scored three runs to help Texas beat the Angels and move the Rangers into a virtual tie with Oakland for the AL West lead.

Alexi Ogando (5-3) allowed two runs four hits over five innings to earn his first win in his last five starts, shrugging off a two-run homer Mike Trout hit in the first inning on his 22nd birthday. The victory was the right-hander's first since May 15 at Oakland.

Braves 6, Nationals 3

In Washington, Jason Heyward singled and Justin Upton doubled in a three-run eighth inning Wednesday night in the Atlanta Braves' sweep-capping 6-3 win over the Washington Nationals, a game played nicely by both sides one night after a fastball to Bryce Harper's thigh cleared both benches.

Upton also homered, and Kris Medlen (9-10) pitched seven solid innings as the Braves won their 13th straight to take a staggering-for-early-August 15 1/2-game lead over the second-place Nationals in the NL East. While Atlanta has a ways to go before it can mathematically clinch, the three-game dismissal of Washington was undoubtedly a psychological clincher that only could be undone by a monumental collapse.

Mets 5, Rockies 0

In New York, Matt Harvey pitched a four-hitter for his first career shutout and Wilmer Flores had a three-run double, leading the Mets to the victory.

Harvey (9-3) struck out six and walked none in his 33rd career start.

Omar Quintanilla and John Buck each had RBI singles off Jhoulys Chacin (10-6), who lost for just the third time in his last 11 starts. Flores got his first big league hit and scored on Quintanilla's hit in the second inning.

Cubs 5, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Donnie Murphy hit a tiebreaking three-run shot in the ninth inning for his second homer of the game, lifting the Cubs to the win.

Murphy drove a 3-1 pitch from Justin De Fratus deep into the left field seats for his third homer in two games. He also had a solo shot in the third.

Pirates 4, Marlins 2

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton retired his final 11 batters over seven strong innings, and the Pirates maintained the best record in the majors.

Morton (4-3) shook off a shaky beginning in which he allowed six hits over his first three-plus innings to beat Miami for the second time in an 11-day span.

Morton, who also had an RBI single, allowed two runs and six hits. Justin Wilson pitched a perfect eighth, and Mark Melancon finished for his seventh save.

Brewers 6, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Norichika Aori drove in two runs, Khris Davis hit a home run and the Brewers defeated the Giants.

Marco Estrada and three relievers combined to throw a three-hitter as the Brewers won their third in four games. Jeff Bianchi and Martin Maldonado also drove in runs for the Brewers.

Alfredo Figaro (2-3) pitched two innings to earn the win.

Dodgers 13, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Carl Crawford's line-drive double off Shelby Miller's right elbow ended the Cardinals starter's night after just two pitches and the Dodgers punished the rookie's replacements, too.

Andre Ethier and Skip Schumaker each had three hits and a season-best four RBIs and Crawford had a season-best four hits and a walk. The Dodgers had 18 hits to top their previous best by one, a night after the Cardinals ended their franchise-record 15-game road winning streak, and are 16-3 since the All-Star break.

Diamondbacks 9, Rays 8

In Phoenix, Martin Prado hit a two-run single in the eighth inning and also had a two-run homer, helping the Diamondbacks rally for a victory over the Rays.

Arizona trailed 3-0 in the first inning, went up 7-4 by the fifth and was down a run after Tampa Bay's four-run seventh.

Reds 6, Athletics 5

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer and threw out a runner at the plate, helping the Reds get the win.

Corky Miller added two run-scoring doubles for Cincinnati, which won consecutive games for the first time since July 24 in San Francisco and July 25 in Los Angeles. Bruce also had a run-scoring grounder in the first.

Oakland scored as many runs as it had in its previous three games, but still lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Orioles 10, Padres 3

In San Diego, Chris Davis hit his major league-best 41st homer in Baltimore's four-run eighth inning.

Davis belted a tiebreaking three-run shot into the bleachers in right-center on the first pitch from Colt Hynes. Brian Roberts tacked on a sacrifice fly, and the Orioles then broke it open with three more runs in the ninth.

Luke Gregerson (5-6) allowed singles to Manny Machado and Adam Jones before Davis went deep, giving him a majors-best 106 RBIs.

Union files appeal of Rodriguez's suspension

CHICAGO (AP)—The Major League Baseball Players Association formally appealed Alex Rodriguez's 211-game suspension Wednesday, sending the case to an independent arbitrator.

Union spokesman Greg Bouris confirmed the appeal and said the players' association had no further comment.

Rodriguez, who was back at third base and batting third for the New York Yankees against the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday night, said he had "no reaction" to the filing of the grievance.

"I don't think any of us thought it was going to be any different," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "As far as having a reaction, it's kind of what I expected. It's part of the process that was negotiated between MLB and the players' association and you let it play out. I expect him to play a lot. We need him to help us."

Major League Baseball declined comment.

Rodriguez was suspended through the 2014 season on Monday when the league penalized 13 players following an investigation into Biogenesis of America, a shuttled Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

The other 12 players accepted 50-game suspensions, but Rodriguez said he planned to fight. Union head Michael Weiner said the punishment for the slugger was "way out of line."

Under the collective bargaining and joint drug agreements, discipline must meet a "just cause" standard.

Rodriguez's punishment was scheduled to begin Thursday, but he is allowed to keep playing until the grievance is heard by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz. He isn't expected to rule until November or December at the earliest.

Coming back from hip surgery in January, Rodriguez played his first game of the season Monday night in the series opener at Chicago. The three-time AL MVP singled in his first at-bat and was 2 for 6 with a walk in his first two games.

The 38-year-old Rodriguez has been booed lustily since his return, except for when he was hit by a pitch in the third inning of the Yankees' 3-2 loss Tuesday night.

The Yankees are off Thursday and then open a three-game series against AL Central-leading Detroit on Friday night in New York. It will be the first home game for Rodriguez since the suspension was announced.

"I am curious what it's going to be like Friday," Girardi said. "I'm not sure. And I don't really know what the appropriate response is. I don't think it's my right to tell people how to respond certain situations."

Rodriguez, who agreed to a 10-year, $275 million contract with the Yankees in December 2007, is the majors' active leader with 647 career homers. He helped New York win the 2009 World Series, batting .365 with six homers and 18 RBIs in the postseason that year.

In an interview on MLB Network Radio on Sirius XM, former teammate Johnny Damon said Wednesday that title would be diminished if Rodriguez used performance-enhancing drugs during the playoff run.

"I really haven't gotten to think that far, but if that's how he was able to hit in the postseason, like he did that year, then yeah, absolutely," said Damon, who has been friends with Rodriguez since they were teenagers. "Then you start going and saying, `Well, was anybody on their team cheating?'

"There's just so many different factors that determine if a team wins, and A-Rod was a huge determining factor."

Asked about Damon's comments, Rodriguez said he hadn't seen what he had said.

"I talk to Johnny all the time so no disappointment whatsoever," Rodriguez said.

McIlroy looking for the kid who won the PGA

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP)—The curls no longer spilled from under his cap, a big change for Rory McIlroy. Prompted to reveal the rest of his free haircut, he removed his hat and wild brown locks sprang to life.

"Still a little bit on the top," he said Wednesday with an easy smile.

Only then did McIlroy resemble the Boy Wonder who dominated golf last summer, starting with his win at the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island by a record margin. He didn't walk down the fairways that week, he bounced. He was No. 1 in the world, and looked every bit the part.

McIlroy would love to rediscover that kid at Oak Hill this week.

In its place is a 24-year-old from Northern Ireland who has reason to feel much older. He hasn't won a tournament, and only once did he even come close. He has finished over par in all three majors, with only two rounds at the British Open. He has failed to make the cut five times this year, which includes walking off the course in the Honda Classic with sore wisdom teeth that still haven't been removed.

Among betting favorites, he was second only to Tiger Woods at the Masters at 5-to-1. For the PGA Championship, the odds are 30-to-1, higher than two players (Henrik Stenson and Brandt Snedeker) who have never won a major.

And he can't wait to get to the first tee Thursday afternoon.

Inspiration comes from videos he has been watching of his eight-shot win at Kiawah Island, along with his back-to-back FedEx Cup playoff wins against some of the strongest fields of the year. Some of what he noticed was technical, such as the position of his club in the swing. What really stood out was the body language.

"It's how you carry yourself. It's all that sort of stuff, your little mannerisms," McIlroy said. "I guess it's just trying to remember those feelings and remember how I felt that week and trying to carry some of that into this week and just get those good, positive thoughts going.

"I think everyone sees when I walk and I'm playing well, I have that little bounce in my step."

What would go a lot longer at Oak Hill is keeping the ball in play on a traditional, tree-lined course—so many trees that even being in the fairway doesn't mean a clear shot at the green if the ball is slightly out of position. The greens are small and slope toward the front. Oak Hill is a hard golf course, and the evidence comes from the previous five majors held on this Donald Ross design—only 10 players in those five majors have finished under par.

"This may be the toughest golf course, but the fairest golf course that we play," said Tom Watson, playing this major for the 32nd time. "Somebody is going to win this thing, and that person is going to play awfully well, awfully good golf this week. Wish I could say that's me."

Watson was joking. Not so funny is that the way McIlroy's year has gone, there isn't much reason to believe it could be him, either.

Most of the attention is on Woods, even though he has gone five years and 17 majors without winning one. Woods won the Bridgestone Invitational last week by seven shots, sparked by a 61 in the second round that tied his personal best. That gave Woods five wins this year, which is five more than McIlroy.

Phil Mickelson opened with a 65 in 2003 the last time the PGA Championship was played at Oak Hill until fading badly in one of his worst seasons as a pro. He is coming off an astounding win at the British Open, where his 66 in the final round is regarded as one of the best closing rounds in a major. If he could pick off another PGA Championship, Mickelson would be a shoo-in as PGA Tour player of the year, an award he has never won.

McIlroy, meanwhile, has been largely forgotten through ordinary play and endless questions about a season gone wrong from his opening tournament when he missed the cut in Abu Dhabi. Some of his troubles have been attributed to a wholesale equipment change, others to his decision to change management companies.

McIlroy said his switch to Nike is no longer an excuse, not with 15 tournaments under his belt. He says it has taken longer than usual to work his way out of bad habits.

"I guess every time you play and you don't play well, it sort of chips away at your confidence a little bit," he said.

McIlroy has gone through this before. Only a year ago, he had gone five months without a win and missed the cut in four out of five tournaments.

Oden finalizes his signing with Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Greg Oden has taken his physical, done a bit of house hunting in South Florida and signed on the dotted line.

Nearly four years after he last played, he's officially back in the NBA.

The former No. 1 overall pick signed his contract with the two-time defending NBA champion Miami Heat on Wednesday, the last in a series of formalities that needed to be completed before the team could finally announce the move. Oden announced late last week that he was accepting Miami's offer, one that will pay him about $1 million this coming year and includes a $1.1 million player option for the 2014-15 season.

"I am very excited and happy to be here," Oden said. "I'm thankful to the Miami Heat organization for bringing me in and I'm ready to get to work."

Heat President Pat Riley said Wednesday that the team will take a cautious approach with Oden, who has been through the cartilage-repair procedure known as microfracture surgery three times.

"It's a great challenge for him," Riley said in a statement released through the team. "We know all about his past injuries, but we feel that there is a huge upside and the possibility of him helping us. We will continue his program and then we will tackle basketball issues after that."

Riley said the team spent "many months" getting to know Oden, evaluating him both on and off the court before coming to the realization that the time for his comeback may be now. And when he decided to accept Miami's offer—there were about a half-dozen serious suitors in all for the 7-footer—Oden said he was won over in part by how the Heat will not have the expectations for him to play big minutes right away.

Oden's last NBA appearance was Dec. 5, 2009, for Portland against Houston. He went up to defend a layup attempt by the Rockets' Aaron Brooks, fracturing his left kneecap on the play and doing so without even making contact with anyone. Oden collapsed to the floor in obvious agony, was wheeled off the floor after a delay, taken for surgery and the Blazers quickly announced that his season was over.

At the time, no one knew that the following three seasons were basically over as well.

Oden's health issues started overshadowing his NBA career before it even started. What would have been his rookie season coming out of Ohio State was lost after he had microfracture surgery during the summer of 2007 to repair cartilage problems in his right knee.

In February 2009, he chipped his left kneecap and missed about a month. And when he broke that kneecap 10 months later, he was playing like an All-Star—matching a career-high with 24 points against Chicago a couple weeks before that injury, and setting a career-best with a 20-rebound game against Miami on Dec. 1, 2009.

Four days later, he was gone, and NBA fans haven't seen him play since.

Another microfracture surgery awaited him in November 2010, and a third one was needed early last year. The Blazers waived him in March 2012, and nearly a year and a half later, he's getting another shot.

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PIC Saipan hosts Road Race on Nov. 10

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners cruise along Beach Road during this year's Saipan Marathon. In November, runners will hit the road anew as they compete in the PIC Road Race.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is hosting yet another signature community event which is sure to draw in participants from the entire Asia/Pacific region. The PIC Road Race, a half marathon and 10-kilometer competition, will commence Nov. 10.

In commemoration of PIC's upcoming 25th anniversary, "The Race" will be limited to the first 250 entries.

Race director Glenn Policare said with 30 different divisions to choose from, he is certain that the event will sell out. "All you need is a pair of shoes and the drive to push yourself to set a new personal record," said Policare.

"All experienced runners and first time racers are being encouraged to challenge themselves this November."

The half marathon will start at the PIC south parking lot at 5:45am sharp. Runners will head south on Beach Road to the turnaround before making their way past the 10 aid stations on their way to the Garapan Fire Station. Course director Dennis Tababa commented that it is important to keep the distances of the race as true as possible.

"We added the extra couple hundred yards at the beginning of the race to make sure the distance was exactly 13.1 miles. We are expecting many veteran racers so we want to give them a race they can really compare times with," said Tababa.

The half marathon will have 14 divisions overall. The age groups will be 15-20 years old, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 6-70, and 70 years of age and older. This will be divided into male and female categories.

There will be cash prizes for the overall first, second, and third place finishers in the male and female categories.

"The Top 3 finishers from each age category will win a medal and a sponsor donated prize, "said Policare. "The Top 3 finishers in the half marathon will be taking home at least $1,000, $500, and $250 respectively for first, second, and third. We are expecting to see some fast times with that kind of money up for grabs."

The 10K run will start at 6am sharp. Runners will start in the PIC southern parking lot and head north along Beach Road. Just before the Microl intersection, runners will make a U-turn and head back to PIC.

Age divisions, both male and female, will be 14 year of age and younger, 15-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, and 70 years of age and older. Again, medals will be awarded at the post-event banquet which will be held at the beautiful outdoor PIC Pavilion. First, second, and third place finishers will receive medals and donated prizes. The Top 3 male and female 10K finishers will go home with at least $500, $250, and $150, respectively.

As with each and every PIC event, you have to expect extras. With each paid half marathon entry, participants are invited to the pre-race carbo dinner on Nov 9. After the race, medals and prizes will be given out at the awards banquet.

All participants will be entitled to spend the day at PIC's Waterpark for only $10. Additionally, each paid entry (half marathon or 10K) will be entered in the biggest raffle draw Saipan has ever seen.

More than $7,000 in prizes will be raffled off. Prizes include PIC Hinemlu Fitness Center memberships, annual PIC Waterpark memberships, and two PIC Explorer Membership Cards.

Along with free room stays, meals and other great prizes, this is one race you will definitely want to be a part of.

Applications are available at the PIC front desk or online at Facebook/Pacific Islands Club Saipan Road Race.

Entry fees are only $50 for the half marathon and $35 for the 10K (until Sept. 30). Fees will increase to $60/$45 until Oct. 30. Entry fees include a finishers T-shirt, limited edition eco-bag, raffle ticket, awards lunch, and pre-race carbo dinner for all half marathoners. Participants of the 10K may attend the pre-race carbo dinner for only $15 with each paid entry. Final entry deadline ($70/$55) will be Nov. 7. For more information, contact PIC executive Glenn Policare or Vicky Benavente at 234-7976. ***(PR)***

TEEN AYUYUS

From Page 36

and Jordan Butcher.

Joining Butcher and Barry on the Teen Ayuyus' starting unit were Enrico del Rosario, Kennedy Izuka, Diego Masga, Kenneth Domingo, John Taisacan, Dakota Hall, Joel Fruit, Jireh Yobech, and goalie Christopher Aninzo, who made a couple of saves in the first half. Also on the squad are Joshua Galarion, William Hinson II, Won Young Kim, Terrence Belcher, Scott Kim, Jehn Joyner, and Yoshi Mafnas.

Meanwhile, the Teen Ayuyus were scheduled to face host Guam last night and results of the match were unavailable at press time. Guam also lost in opening game last Wednesday, bowing to Hong Kong, 1-3, while Chinese-Taipei shut out Macau, 2-0, in the first match in Day 1 of the EAFF tournament. Scorers in the three games were not posted in EAFF's website.

The six-day competition has a round-robin format with the team with the most wins getting the championship.

RUSZALA

From Page 36

and kicked in the water," said Ruszala, who finished the one-loop swim course in 38:57, No. 63 in his age group (35 to 39) and No. 442 overall.

"After the first 200m or so I was able to maneuver ahead of a pack of swimmers and really opened my stroke. It felt like flying through the mostly clear and deep water. I rode through the rise and fall of some decent waves brought in by the storm and cruised past the final turn to the beach," he added.

Next up was the two-loop bike leg and Ruszala drew strength from the loud cheers from the crowd lined up along the course to battle fatigue.

"The bike leg was a rush. Thousands of onlookers lined the streets from Lapu-Lapu to Talisay, as we raced over bridges, through tunnels, and back to T2 in Mactan. The cheers were at times deafening and always provided me with extra power to get through the next segment of the course," the IT&E marketing coordinator said.

Ruszala timed in at 3:46:09 and braced himself for the most difficult part of the race—the two-loop run leg.

"Once again, onlookers lined the course as we ran two loops in the heat. The sun which had previously left us to race in comfort finally arrived to bake us during the final leg of the race. The run was definitely the most difficult part of the race for me. The great feelings that I experienced at the start were soon replaced by sore joints and cramps after the 12K mark," said Ruszala, who clocked in at 2:49:34 in the run leg.

Another Saipan-based triathlete—Manny Sitchon—also joined the Cobra race, while XTERRA Saipan champions Ben Allen and Jacqui Slack also competed in the pro division. Sitchon submitted 8:15:09, while Allen and Slack timed in at 4:05:09 (No. 10 in men's pro and 14 overall) and 4:39:31 (No. 4 in women's and No. 30 overall), respectively.

"There were top notch athletes. Every division, everywhere on the course featured the top triathletes from their respective tri communities. It was inspiring, to say the least," Ruszala said.

KALAYAAN

From Page 36

key and took a step first before making a dribble. Before that mistake, Flip Top was down by only one, 55-56, as Emerson Feria earlier connected a banked triple.

Roy Hernandez made it a 3-point lead for Kalayaan, 58-55, off a 24-second shot clock-beating shot, while Flip Top committed another error, as Kevin De Leon's entry pass to Wens Namelo at the left baseline rolled out of the latter's hands.

Flip Top then gambled on giving up a preemptive foul, but the plan backfired, as Leo Apelo made both charities, upping Kalayaan's lead to 5, 60-55. With the clock down to 25.4 seconds, Flip Top was pressed to pull up for a quick triple, but Kalayaan did a great defensive job on Chris Mizer, who was forced to make a pass, which landed on the backcourt, thus his team lost possession and was forced to give up another foul. Don Brennan drilled both charities to seal the win for Kalayaan.

Sister Market 93, Kamikaze 72

In the first game, Sister Market ended its regular season campaign on a five-game winning streak after beating Kamikaze (3-1).

Sister Market, which lost its opening game to Mawati (4-0), 74-88, drew a big game from Jun Tabora and good start from Ferdie Tobias to rout hand Kamikaze its first defeat of the season. Tabora scored 28 points, while Tobias drilled 9 of his 10 markers in the first quarter to lift Sister Market to an early double-digit lead, 26-11. Kamikaze never recovered from thereon.

First Game

Sister Market 93 – Tabora 28, Bisana 14, Tobias 10, Capalad 9, Jugos 9, Santos 8, Teregeyo 6, Norita 3.

Kamikaze 72 – De Dios 26, Rivera 20, Santos 14, R. Sacramento 6, A. Sacramento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-11, 51-30, 65-53, 93-72.

Second Game

Kalayaan 62 – Apelo 18, Brennan 16, Rejano 7, Ro. Hernandez 6, J. Hernandez 5, Caro 4, Jung 4, Chan 2.

Fong's Flip Top 55 – Mizer 19, Feria 12, De Leon 8, Esteves 8, Lapuz 4, Namelo 2, Fleming 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-9, 22-21, 40-35, 62-55.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	70	46	.603	–
Tampa Bay	66	47	.584	2 1/2
Baltimore	63	51	.553	6
New York	57	56	.504	11 1/2
Toronto	53	61	.465	16

Central Division

Detroit	67	45	.598	–
Cleveland	62	52	.544	6
Kansas City	58	53	.523	8 1/2
Minnesota	49	62	.441	17 1/2
Chicago	43	69	.384	24

West Division

Oakland	64	49	.566	–
Texas	65	50	.565	–
Seattle	53	61	.465	11 1/2
Los Angeles	51	62	.451	13
Houston	37	76	.327	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	70	45	.609	–
Washington	54	60	.474	15 1/2
New York	51	60	.459	17
Philadelphia	51	62	.451	18
Miami	43	69	.384	25 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	69	44	.611	–
St. Louis	66	47	.584	3
Cincinnati	63	51	.553	6 1/2
Chicago	50	63	.442	19
Milwaukee	49	65	.430	20 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	63	50	.558	–
Arizona	58	55	.513	5
San Diego	52	62	.456	11 1/2
Colorado	52	63	.452	12
San Francisco	50	63	.442	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even-steven at Kanoa women's caging

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ballersss' Alyanna Garon looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as she is guarded by a Hashtag player during an earlier game in the Kanoa women's caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two ties in the team standings in the 2013 Kanoa Resort Women's Basketball Summer League were made after upsets were recorded in last Wednesday's games at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In the first game, the Ballersss eked out a 73-64 win over Bubblebxtt to force a deadlock for the top spot. Bubblebxtt had its four-game winning run snapped and is forced to share first place with the Ballersss as the two squads hold similar 4-1 slates.

In the second match, Hashtag broke into the win column, following a 61-51 triumph over Yoloswag Attack and the two teams are also in a deadlock with identical 1-4 cards.

With the ties, the last two games in the second round of the league tonight will be crucial in determining the seeding of the four participating squads in the double-round robin playoffs.

The Ballersss, which bowed to Bubblebxtt in the first round, 58-63, got even after holding the latter to 2 points in the second overtime.

The game went into its first extension period after the Ballersss' Jan Travilla made a jumper in the closing seconds of the regulation and Bubblebxtt ran out of time to pull up for a shot, leaving the score tied at 57-all. Then in the first overtime, it was Bubblebxtt's turn to convert the game-tying basket with Mikky Kautz nailing an undergoal stab, 62-62.

After exchanging blows with the Ballersss for 45 minutes, Bubblebxtt ran out of steam in the second overtime and drew only a basket from Kautz. The Ballersss, on the other hand, got 4 points from Travilla and one basket each from Alyanna Garon, Ira Palero, and Dion Diaz.

Garon, Diaz, and Travilla finished the lung-busting game with 16 points apiece, while Palero added 10. Kautz led Bubblebxtt with her 16 markers.

In the second game, Rachel Abrams and Kyla Ito teamed up in giving Hashtag its first victory of the season and avenging their 49-63 loss to Yoloswag Attack in the first round.

Abrams scored 28 points, while Ito chipped in 24 to outgun the Yoloswag Attack duo of Jaime Mendoza and Jazmin Rayphand. The two Yoloswag Attack players combined for 35 points and even if Rikki Kautz's output (10) was to be added to the equation, still the 1-2 punch of Hashtag scored 7 more markers than the trio.

First Game

Ballersss 73 – Garon 16, Travilla 16, Diaz 16, Palero 10, Reyes 9, Olivos 2.

Bubblebxtt 64 – Kautz 16, Pena 15, Castillo 13, Javier 10, Alegre 6, Gatchalian 4.

Scoring by halves: 26-26, 57-57, 62-62 (1OT), 73-64 (2OT)

Second Game

Hashtag 61 – Abrams 28, Ito 24, Lumabi 4, Bartolo 2, Atalig 2, Gelacio 1.

Yoloswag Attack 51 – Mendoza 24, Rayphand 11, Kautz 10, Samson 4, Abantao 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-27, 61-51.

Sweeps highlight Day 2 of Shirley's Classic

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cheng Saturno bends to return a shot during her and Michelle Santos' game against Elna Curate and Loida Ito in the Shirley's Badminton Classic last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Players took the short route to victories in Day 2 of the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic, as 13 matches at the TSL Sports Complex last Saturday were decided after only two games.

In the women's singles B division, Janelle Pangilinan swept Merlie Tolentino, 21-0, 21-17, while in Class C, Havikka Farro and Rowena Sison made short work of Judy Mendieta, 21-7, 21-8, and Nicole Malasarte, 21-20, 21-15, respectively. Farro recorded back-to-back wins last Saturday, as it also took her only two games to beat Roxe Lazaro, 21-14, 21-18.

In the lone women's singles tiff that went to three games, Jen Cardinio edged Loida Ito in their Class A duel. Cardinio won the opening game, but Ito forced a tie after bouncing back in the second, 21-15. The Community Badminton Club player then recovered in the third with a 21-10 triumph.

In the men's singles, all two Class B matches played were done after only two games. Jordan Pangilinan downed Ezekiel Macario, 21-16, 21-17, while Mario Diola defeated Joel Ortega, 21-19, 21-18. The other men's singles game set for Saturday resulted in a win by default for Jexler Caranto, as Ferdie Arago did not make it in time for their Class A match.

In the doubles category, all Class B matches played in Day 2 were won in two games. Jojo Savellano and Roger Vales prevailed over Yun Jun and Son Jae Ok, 21-14, 21-18; Ezekiel Macario and Pangilinan topped Jerry Tan and Park, 21-13, 21-10; and Ortega and Oh Im Bog swept Alvin Alvarez and Edwim Maratas, 21-7, 21-17. In the lone Class A tiff, Glenn Bluutjens and Sam Jones beat Jerry Hibi and Joseph Santos, 21-19, 21-14.

In the women's doubles, Hannah Choi and Alma Ortega triumphed over Windy Fernandez and Lani Bartolome in Class A, while in Class B, Lucelle Lampera and Sison defeated Gigi Zapanta and Cristy Villaflor, 21-16, 21-10, and Cheng Saturno and Michelle Santos edged Tolentino and Shirley Kim, 14-21, 21-16, 21-15.

Triple A baseball league opens tomorrow

The 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League will start tomorrow at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The opening ceremony is set for 9am with the sanctioning Saipan Baseball League Inc. inviting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerero (IR-Saipan), Saipan, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Division of Youth Services acting administrator Vivian Sablan, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro to attend the event.

This year's Triple A league, which is for players in the 14 to 18 age group, will feature eight teams. The list includes last season's finalists the Rockies of manager Syl Ada, Joey Dela Cruz's Giants, Bernard Cabrera's Dodgers, Mike Pangelinan's Braves, Pat Tenorio's Reds, Chel Castro's Yankees, Jesse Yamagishi's Pirates (formerly the inaugural champions Orioles), and Greg Camacho's Cardinals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A pitcher is seen here in action during a youth baseball league early this year at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, which will host the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League.

The Rockies will play the Giants in the first game at 10am after the opening ceremony, while two more matches are scheduled for the kick-off day. The Dodgers will meet the Braves in the second match at 12:30am, while the Reds will challenge the Yankees in the last game at 3pm.

The two remaining squads will have their debuts on Aug. 12 with the Pirates dueling the Cardinals at the 4:30pm match. Then at 7pm, the Giants will square off against the Dodgers.

Games in the Triple A league, which is supported by DYS, will be played every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Games on weekdays are scheduled for 4:30pm and 7pm, while Saturday's first match will start at 9:30am and the second at 12:30pm. The league's regular season will have a double-round robin format with the Top 4 teams after the elimination round marching into the playoffs. Playoff format will be decided at the end of the regular season.

For more information, contact SBLI at 287-1129. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

XGA August Ace tomorrow

Xclusive Golf Association will hold its August Ace of the Month Tournament this coming Saturday, Aug. 10, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Showtime is set at 12om with tee time at 1pm.

Since its inception, the XGA has been known to support numerous activities in the community such as the local Little League program and has coupled some of its event's in the past to benefit students and people in need of off-island medical referrals.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members, and contrast to its name, the club is open to the public and anyone is welcome can join.

The group is currently accepting new members and has reduced its annual membership fee for newcomers from $30 to $50; renewal for returning members is $25; club polo shirts are also available for only $25.

On the day of events, players are also required to foot a green fee along with an added modest charge that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

For more information, contact XGA secretary J.J. Cabrera at 287-9478 or Gerald Guerrero at 285-4153. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Tigers outlast Indians 6-5 in 14 innings
PAGE 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Even-steven at Kanoa women's caging
PAGE 35

Teen Ayuyus hold Koreans to 4 goals

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Enrico del Rosario, Bo Barry, and Jordan Butcher battle a North Korean player for the ball during their game in the EAFF tournament at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo last Wednesday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI U18 National Team stood up to powerhouse North Korea in the first half before surrendering a 4-1 win against its heavily favored foe in the opening of the 2013 EAFF U18 Youth Tournament at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo last Wednesday.

The four goals was the least the CNMI has allowed to North Korea since joining EAFF youth tournaments seven years ago. In 2006, during a U14 event in China, North Korea clobbered the Commonwealth, 16-0, and two years later in Guam, the Koreans had another shutout win over the CNMI, 9-0.

Then in a U15 EAFF competition in 2010, also in Guam, North Korea whipped the CNMI, 23-0. Several CNMI players from that U15 squad are now playing for the U18 team and the same players also donned the colors of the Commonwealth in another U15 EAFF contest in Chinese-Taipei and bowed to North Koreans anew, 0-22.

"We're happy with the way our players performed against North Korea. Our players executed our game plan, which was to play a very strong defense. We held down a very dangerous and explosive team in the first half. Our players stayed positive despite the loss, as we are looking for development and not so much for the results," Teen Ayuyus head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Teen Ayuyus indeed played tough defense against the North Koreans, shutting the latter in the first half and until the opening 15 minutes of the second half. On offense, the CNMI bets got an own goal off a Korean defender miscue while trying to contain Bo Barry

See TEEN AYUYUS on Page 34

Ruszala survives 'Cobra'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brad Ruszala celebrates as he is about to complete the bike leg of the Cobra Ironman 70.3 Philippines last Sunday in Mactan, Cebu.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan triathlete Brad Ruszala fought cramps and fatigue to complete his debut in the 2013 Cobra Ironman 70.3 Philippines held last Sunday in Mactan, Cebu.

Ruszala finished the 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike, and 13.1-mile run race in 6:40.35.

"I was 185th out of 397 in my age group. Also, I was 1,007 out over 2,100 overall, so I was really happy with my finish. I needed to remind myself that I was not competing with the field and just racing to see how fast I could go while still finishing," Ruszala said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Ruszala got off to a slow start in the swim leg along the shoreline of the Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, as he had to battle not the strong current of the water, but the people he was swimming with.

"In the swim, the biggest challenge was to keep my cool and find a rhythm while getting slapped, punched, grabbed,

See RUSZALA on Page 34

Kalayaan outlasts Fong's Flip Top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kalayaan won its last game of the season after thwarting Fong's Flip Top, 62-55, in the second match in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Kalayaan finished Pool B with a 2-4 record for sixth place, while Flip Top still has a better standing (fourth) with its even 3-3 slate despite falling short in the game after committing three costly turnovers and making only one field goal in the closing minutes of the match.

Flip Top, which recovered from a 9-point deficit early in the fourth and took a shaky 53-52 lead off a Chris Mizer triple at the 3:53 mark, committed the miscues in the final 1: 30 of the game. The first error came from Joseph Galulu's traveling violation, as he was surprise to see himself open from the right

See KALAYAAN on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kalayaan's Don Brennan goes up for an acrobatic shot against Fong's Flip Top's Chris Esteves during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.